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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab 'Minisummit' To Be Held in Syria *[AL-RA'Y 10 Mar]* 2
Lebanon Wants Resolution 425 on League Agenda *[Cairo Radio]* 2
Arab League Head, Pakistani Discuss Kashmir *[Cairo TV]* 2
Bank Offers $12 Million to New Islamic Republics *[MENA]* 2

Islamic Affairs

ICO To Send Mission to Nagorno-Karabakh *[SPA]* 2
ICO Condemns Oppression Against Burmese Muslims *[SPA]* 2

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi, 'Abd-al-Shafi View Last Round of Talks *[Jerusalem International]* 3
'Urayqat Comments *[AL-DUSTUR 11 Mar]* 3
PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh Meets With King Husayn *[AL-RA'Y 12 Mar]* 4
Israel Frees Detained Talks Delegation Member *[AL-NAHAR 11 Mar]* 5
Palestinian Envoy Denies Rights Abuses in Egypt *[AL-AHRAM 9 Mar]* 5
U.S. 'Double Standard' on Arms Reduction Scored *[Algiers VOP]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Ghozali Comments on Economic Reforms, FIS Ban *[APS]* 7
Council Discusses Price Controls, Aid to Poor *[APS]* 7
Calm Returns to Setif University *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Atomic Energy Head Cites Reactor Accord *[APS]* 8

Egypt

150 Islamists Arrested Since Police Shooting *[London MBC TV]* 8
Three Killed in Coptic-Islamist Shoot-Out *[VOL]* 8
Mubarak Urges Israel To Sign Nonproliferation Pact *[MENA]* 8
Government Issues Privatization Regulations *[AKHBAR AL-YAWM 7 Mar]* 8
Paper Criticizes 'Revelations' of Pentagon Plans *[MENA]* 9

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Seeks To 'Relinquish' Leadership
[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 5 Mar] 9
Al-Qadhdhafi Phones Mubarak on 'Current Issues' *[Cairo Radio]* 9

Sudan

Brigadier Sacked for 'Illegal Earnings' *[Omdurman Radio]* 9
Al-Bashir on Relations With Egypt, Other Issues *[AL-AKHBAR 3 Mar]* 10

On Islamic State *[AL-RIBAT 9 Mar]* 11
Government Denies Launching Offensive in South *[London AL-HAYAH 9 Mar]* 12
Military Officer Urges Talks, End to Fighting *[London AL-HAYAH 9 Mar]* 12

Western Sahara

Polisario Accuses Morocco of Violating Truce *[Algiers Radio]* 13

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Minister on Oil Output Cut, Higher Kuwaiti Quota *[KUNA]* 14
Crown Prince Discusses Saddam, Democracy, Torture *[Hamburg DER SPIEGEL 9 Mar]* 14
Interior Minister Comments on End to Censorship *[London AL-MAJALLAH 4-10 Mar]* 16

IRAQ

Further on Tariq 'Aziz-UN Security Council Talks 17
'Aziz Speech to Security Council *[INA]* 17
'Aziz Addresses Press *[INA]* 22
Security Council Postpones Session *[INA]* 23
Turkey Given Protest Over Airspace Violations *[Baghdad Radio]* 23

ISRAEL

Shipment of Scud Missiles to Syria Criticized 24
Levi Takes 'Serious View' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Meets With U.S. Official *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Arens To Broach Issue With Cheney *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 12 Mar]* 24
Ben-Elisar on U.S. 'Impotence' *[HA'ARETZ 12 March]* 24
'Disgraceful U.S. Failure' Seen *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 12 Mar]* 25
'Additional' Korean Vessel En Route to Iran *[Jerusalem TV]* 25
Efforts To End Egypt Espionage Affair Continue 25
Israeli Ambassador Comments *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 25
Egyptian Ambassador Comments *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 25
Egypt Asks To Reopen Mortgage Bank in Territories *[AL-MANAR 9 Mar]* 26
Agreement Signed on Charter Flights to PRC *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
EC Participation in Multilateral Talks Opposed *[HA'ARETZ 8 Mar]* 26
EC Linking Trade, Peace Progress *[HA'ARETZ 11 Mar]* 26
'Mistakes Made' in 20 Feb Lebanon Operation *[HA'ARETZ 12 Feb]* 27
Shamir—No Room for Compromise on 'Eretz Yisra'el' *[IDF Radio]* 27
Ramiyah Residents Ordered To 'Evacuate Land' *[DAVAR 11 Mar]* 27
Committee To Run Gaza Municipality Formed *[Jerusalem TV]* 27
Arens Meets Ramallah Chamber of Commerce Members *[Jerusalem TV]* 28
Hamas Seen Supplanting PLO in Territories *['AL HAMISHMAR 11 Mar]* 28
Unrest, Casualties in Territories Reported 29
'Dozens' Arrested in Janin Operation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Three Wounded in Silwan Shooting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Pro-Fatah Figures Flee; Hamas Revenge Feared *[Jerusalem TV]* 30
IDF To Free 300 Qezi'ot Inmates for Ramadan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
180 Gazans Released 11 Mar *[Jerusalem TV]* 30

JORDAN

Confederation With Palestinians Planned *[AKHBAR AL-USBU' 12 Mar]* 31
Report on Plan To Unite Iraq, Jordan Denied *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 9 Mar]* 31
Compulsory Military Service Law May Change *[AL-RA'Y 12 Mar]* 31

LEBANON

Delegation Leader Stays in U.S. To Discuss Ties *[RFL]* 32
Nasrallah on U.S. Envoy's Absence, Hostages *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 32
Hizballah Accuses Israel of Using Human Shields *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 32
Hostage Holders Said Ready To Accept Pledge *[London AL-HAYAH 8 Mar]* 32

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibollah Meets Departing Russian Ambassador *[Kabul Radio]* 34
Commentary Advocates National Unity *[Kabul Radio]* 34

India

Tibetans Attack PRC Embassy in Delhi *[AFP]* 34

Iran

Newspapers Assess U.S. Stand on Korean Freighter *[IRNA]* 35
Pakistan To Handle Iranian Interests in U.S. *[IRNA]* 35
Velayati Phones Azerbaijani, Armenian Leaders *[Tehran Radio]* 36
Further on Azerbaijani Delegation's Visit *[IRNA]* 36
Tajik Visitor Urges Expansion of Ties *[Tehran Radio]* 36
Transportation Agreement Signed With Russia *[IRNA]* 36
Najibollah's Bid for U.S. Assistance Criticized *[Tehran Radio]* 37
Cypriot Foreign Minister Comments on Visit, Departs *[Tehran Radio]* 37
Majles Law Bans Media Electioneering *[Tehran Radio]* 37

Pakistan

Sharif Dismisses Communications Minister *[AFP]* 38
Bush Remarks on Ties, Nuclear Issue Noted *[Islamabad Radio]* 38
Spokesman on Indian Nonproliferation Stand *[Islamabad TV]* 38
Afghan Resistance Leader Rejects UN Plan *[THE NATION 12 Mar]* 38
'Revolutionary Vision' Guides Ties With Republics *[Islamabad Radio]* 39

Sri Lanka

Indian Proposal To Arrest Prabhakaran Criticized *[DAILY NEWS 2 Mar]* 39

Iran

Any U.S. attempt to board the North Korean ship that evaded U.S. naval surveillance and docked at Bandar-e 'Abbas would have been a "risky, illegal business," according to a KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL commentary cited by IRNA. "Clearly, a few dead American sailors would smell bad for the White House in the run-up elections," the commentary concluded.

Israel

The government takes a "serious view" of the successful shipment of Scud missiles to Syria from North Korea, Foreign Minister David Levi told a visiting State Department official. In other comment, Knesset member Eliyahu Ben-Elisar called the U.S. Navy's failed attempt to intercept the ship a manifestation of U.S. "impotence," HA'ARETZ reported, while a YEDI'OT AHARONOT editorial entitled "Hide-and-Seek in the Gulf" said the incident calls into question the effectiveness of Washington's embargo against Iraq. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has ordered residents of the West Bank village of Ramiyah to "evacuate the land, upon the request of Israel Lands Administration, to clear it for the construction of a new neighborhood for immigrants," DAVAR disclosed. The residents had earlier appealed the eviction order, but the appeal was denied.

Iraq

The population is being deprived of its basic necessities as a result of the economic blockade, the deputy prime minister stated in a speech to UN Security Council. In the text of his speech, which was carried by INA, Tariq 'Aziz said although Iraq was "theoretically" allowed to import food and medicine under the provisions of the embargo, this was a virtual impossibility while its assets abroad were frozen. He asked the Security Council how long the blockade would continue to be imposed, adding that the importation of such items as soap, newsprint, and children's toys were being subjected to the "arbitrary powers" of the UN sanctions committee. He asked the UN to change its position on the boycott and "adopt an objective and fair stand."

Jordan

"Practical and executive" steps to form a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation will be taking place within the next few weeks, according to an exclusive report in AKHBAR AL-USBU'. The report says the confederation will seek to unite Jordanian and Palestinian positions and quash Israel's autonomy plan, which was described as being "devoid of any substance."

Lebanon

Suhayl Shammas, head of the delegation to the Arab-Israeli negotiations, has stayed in Washington following the latest round of talks to press for U.S. Ambassador Crocker's return to Beirut, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Crocker has reportedly not returned to Beirut because of fears that he could be a revenge target in the wake of the murder of Shiite cleric 'Abbas al-Musawi, Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed noted.

Western Sahara

Polisario accused the Moroccan Army of firing for more than three hours in the Farsi region on 10 March, violating a truce agreement, Algiers radio reported. The Saharan Government has protested to the UN Security Council.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab 'Minisummit' To Be Held in Syria

JN1003091992 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Mar 92 pp 1, 23

[Text] Cairo—AL-RA'Y has learned that there is ·re plans to hold a minisummit for the leaders of the frontline Arab states. AL-RA'Y sources said that it was agreed to hold this summit in response to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's proposal to hold an Arab minisummit comprising the frontline states participating in the peace process, to evaluate the four rounds of Arab-Israeli talks and Arab coordination.

AL-RA'Y sources confirmed that this summit will be attended by His Majesty King Husayn, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. It will be held in Damascus after the blessed 'Id al-Fitr holiday [lunar holiday probably to begin between 1 and 3 April].

Well-informed sources told AL-RA'Y that the five leaders have agreed to attend this proposed summit to coordinate their stands before the start of the fifth round of talks, which is scheduled to be a multilateral round, especially since Israel has insisted on not participating in the disarmament committee stemming from the multilateral talks.

Lebanon Wants Resolution 425 on League Agenda

NC1103164892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 11 Mar GMT 92

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today received Ambassador 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sulh, Lebanon's permanent delegate to the Arab League. Speaking after the meeting, Ambassador al-Sulh said Lebanon has officially asked for the issue of the occupation of parts of southern Lebanon and the western sector to be placed on the agenda of the 97th session of the Arab League Council as a permanent and separate item. Lebanon wants Security Council Resolution 425 on Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon to be discussed at the same session, adding that Lebanon placed the topic on the last Arab League Council agenda but not as an independent, separate item.

Arab League Head, Pakistani Discuss Kashmir

NC1103202792 Cairo Egyptian Space Channel in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has met with the Pakistani minister of science and technology and the Pakistani prime minister's personal envoy. They discussed developments in the Arab region, Arab-Pakistani ties, and possible Arab League efforts to resolve the Kashmir issue.

Bank Offers $12 Million to New Islamic Republics

NC1103212092 Cairo MENA in English 1524 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, March 11 (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, received today Faruq Hasanayn Makhluf, advisor of the Islamic Bank for Development in Jiddah, at present visiting here.

Following the meeting Makhluf said he discussed with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid the issue of the cooperation agreement between the Arab League and the Islamic Bank which the Arab League Council will discuss in its coming session due to start on Monday.

He added that the bank finances a number of humanitarian projects in the fields of education, health and offering economic and social support to the Islamic states and the Islamic communities in the non Muslim states.

The bank offered 12 million dollars to the Islamic states which became independent from the Soviet Union.

Islamic Affairs

ICO To Send Mission to Nagorno-Karabakh

LD0903182992 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Jeddah, 9 Mar (SPA)—Dr. Hamid al-Gabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO), has decided to send a mission to survey the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, which is being disputed by Azerbaijan and Armenia.

The ICO secretary general continues close contacts with countries in that region to encourage benevolent initiatives aimed at solving the dispute by peaceful means.

A communique by Dr. Hamid al-Gabid expressed concern at tension in relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia which is rising from their conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Dr. al-Gabid also expressed regret for the heavy loss of life and for material damage resulting from the armed conflict.

ICO Condemns Oppression Against Burmese Muslims

LD1103212892 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2030 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Jeddah, 11 Mar (SPA)—The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has strongly condemned the campaign of persecution and oppression being waged by the Burmese authorities against Muslims in Burma, regarding it as a flagrant violation of human rights.

In a statement issued today, ICO Secretary General Dr. Hamid al-Gabid said that he is following with increasing concern the plight of Muslims in Burma, who have been

compelled by the Burmese authorities to flee their country in search of a refuge and haven in neighboring Bangladesh.

The ICO secretary general urged the Burmese Government immediately to stop the campaign of persecution and oppression against the Muslims of Burma, which led to the migration of about 180,000 Muslims to neighboring Bangladesh. He called on Burma to provide peace and normal living conditions inside the country so that these wretched refugees can return in safety and with honor.

Dr. al-Gabid appealed to the international community, and to member states of the United Nations in particular, to give generous aid to the government and people of Bangladesh to enable them to shoulder the burden of providing relief and a haven for the Burmese Muslim refugees.

In view of the seriousness of the situation, the ICO secretary general has decided to send an ICO mission to Bangladesh.

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi, 'Abd-al-Shafi View Last Round of Talks

JN1103143892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1120 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Report by Sa'id Mu'addi carried within the "With the Midday Events" program]

[Text] Members of the Palestinian contingent of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation returned from Amman this morning after participating in the fourth round of bilateral talks in Washington. In evaluating the results of this round of talks, Palestinian chief delegate Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Shafi recording] I am not satisfied with the results of the fourth round. There is an impasse. There is a mutual nonacceptance of what was presented by the Israeli and Palestinian delegations. This means that there is a difference in views with regard to the nature of the transitional stage. Thus I am neither satisfied nor pleased. [end recording]

Commenting on this round of talks, Palestinian spokeswoman Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said:

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording] It was a tough round, but a number of basic issues received attention, including settlement activity and the need to halt it immediately. A comprehensive plan on the transitional stage was presented. This plan essentially is based on the exercise of democracy and the holding of free elections in the occupied territories. [end recording]

The U.S. Administration criticized the Palestinian side for not dealing with the essence of the issues, instead saying that it was content to hold news conferences. Commenting on this, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Shafi recording] In fact, I believe that this criticism is unfair and baseless. We are truly interested in the negotiations. It is not true that we are only trying to accomplish media gains. We presented a plan which, in our opinion, is a comprehensive one for the transitional stage. The fact that this plan was rejected by the Israelis does not mean that we are only interested in the media. I believe that our view is in line with the principles contained in the invitation to the peace process. [end recording]

The committees emanating from the Moscow conference will begin their sessions in approximately two months. We asked Dr. 'Ashrawi if the Palestinian side will take part in these committees. She answered:

[Begin recording] ['Ashrawi] Of course this issue is being studied and discussed. There are ongoing preparations to secure full Palestinian participation.

['Abd-al-Shafi] I do not know. We are in the process of assessing the peace process and the negotiations. Perhaps by the end of this process an understanding will be reached on how things will be in the future. [end recording]

Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory council in the joint delegation, did not return from Amman with the members of the Palestinian side. He has remained there to continue consultations with Jordanian officials and members of the Jordanian delegation to the bilateral talks.

'Urayqat Comments

JN1103111792 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Mar 92 pp 24, 16

[By Tawfiq al-'Abid]

[Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian negotiating team, has revealed that an Arab meeting on the foreign ministerial level will soon be held to evaluate the results of the fourth round of talks that ended a few days ago in Washington. He said that contacts are currently under way among the four Arab parties to set a date and venue for the meeting.

He told AL-DUSTUR that the chief Arab delegates to the Washington talks have agreed to continue consultations with the U.S. Administration to set a date and venue for the fifth round, and he noted that the Arab parties are in agreement that talks should be held simultaneously with all parties, in one place.

'Urayqat added: Ten European cities are currently under consideration to host the next round of talks, and one of them acceptable to all parties will eventually be selected. He said that the Arab parties still insist on keeping Washington the venue of the talks until tangible progress is achieved.

As for the Washington talks, Dr. 'Urayqat said: Everything was there in the negotiating hall except actual negotiations. The sessions were confined to discussing details and defining points of agreement and disagreement, as well as reviewing positions and counterpositions.

On the Palestinian level, he said, the Israeli delegation presented ideas based on five factors. These are separating land from people, considering Israel the source of authority, excluding Jerusalem from the transitional stage, granting Israelis the right to settle in the occupied territories, and giving the Palestinians only administrative positions and powers during the transitional stage.

He said that the Israelis want to normalize relations with the Arab states and to have Israel's legitimate existence recognized before discussing the issue of territories.

'Urayqat added: Palestinian chief delegate Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi objectively and rationally responded to the Israeli side by saying: Your ideas cannot be accepted and they are not even worth discussing. The Israeli delegation also rejected the Palestinian plan concerning the transitional stage. Its chief delegate told us that "the plan is in itself a state that is missing a flag." We received a written Israeli response on 4 March 1992 informing us that the plan had been rejected. The response said: "This plan is totally unacceptable because every single letter of it points to a state. A Palestinian state is suicidal for us." This is how the round ended.

Dr. 'Urayqat said: The Israeli ideas reflected Shamir's principle of "the land of Israel stretches from the sea to the river." He wondered: How can we build schools on the clouds, grow potatoes in the air, or run our traffic between the earth and the sky?

Dr. 'Urayqat called on the United States, in its capacity as the sponsor of negotiations, to intervene and define the basis and foundations of the negotiating process. He said: It is illogical to renegotiate the meaning of UN Security Council Resolution 242 and settlement activity because these issues have already been settled internationally. The international interpretation of Resolution 242 is based on the land-for-peace principle and the belief that settlement activity is illegitimate, settlements should be removed according to UN Security Council Resolution 465, and that these settlements represent an obstacle to peace.

He said it is demanded that the U.S. Administration translate its stands practically, especially as regards the peace process which, as U.S. State Department officials told us, holds a special priority in U.S. policy.

As for the Popular Front's accusation that the delegation has made concessions vis-a-vis settlements and the implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, Dr. 'Urayqat said: Our stand was linked to the need to stop settlement activity and implement the Geneva Convention. It was based on not moving on to any other topic on the agenda before settling these two issues. This is what we did. He said that the accusation is false and that those who issued the statement lack a lot of information about what took place in Washington.

Responding to a U.S. State Department official's assertion that the Palestinian delegation focused on media issues and did not try to get into the crux of the negotiations, he said: Anyone who presents a comprehensive plan for the transitional stage and is as serious as the Palestinian delegation is will not accept such an accusation.

He added: It would have been better for the U.S. official to wonder about the meaning of the continuation of Israeli settlement activity, the haphazard administrative arrests, the demolition of homes, the unprecedented escalation of campaigns against human rights in the occupied territories, the uprooting of trees, and the haphazard killing of Palestinians by settlers and special murder groups.

Dr. 'Urayqat said: It would have been better for whomever talks about those who are disrupting the peace process to scrutinize Israel's actions in the occupied areas.

As for the next round, Dr. 'Urayqat said that elements will interact outside the negotiating hall more than inside it. Israel, he added, is in a stage of elections and abnormal balances. Yitzhaq Shamir is telling the Israeli public that negotiations are under way with the Arabs while at the same time he knows that getting into the substance of the negotiations will shake up the Likud. He is also telling them that "the land-for-peace concept is nonnegotiable."

He said: Yitzhaq Rabin's victory in the Labor Party elections will help shape matters toward forming a national coalition government in Israel.

PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh Meets With King Husayn

JN1203092392 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Mar 92 p 15

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, left Amman yesterday for Tunis at the conclusion of a one-week working visit to Jordan.

His Majesty King Husayn received 'Abd-Rabbuh, who conveyed to his majesty a message from the Palestinian leadership dealing with the latest developments in and future prospects for the peace process.

Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir also met with the Palestinian official and discussed with him the results of the fourth round of peace talks, as well as ways and means of maintaining Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and bolstering bilateral relations in a manner that serves the common objectives and broadens the horizons of joint Arab action.

In a statement to reporters 'Abd-Rabbuh praised Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and emphasized the importance of supporting a confederation between Jordan and the West Bank so that bilateral coordination could reach its apex.

He called for bolstering Arab solidarity and uniting Arab stands to confront the Israeli intransigence evident in the fourth round of Arab-Israeli talks, as well as to face Israel's repressive practices in the occupied Arab territories.

Israel Frees Detained Talks Delegation Member

TA1103142292 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 11 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] Hebron—The Israeli authorities released Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Hurani, 32, a member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, following about two months of administrative detention in Ansar 3.

The Israeli authorities had detained al-Hurani during his departure for Amman via the Allenby Bridge with the other members of the negotiating delegation.

Another member of the delegation, Jamal al-Shubaki of Bethlehem, is still serving a three-month administrative detention sentence in Negev Prison.

Palestinian Envoy Denies Rights Abuses in Egypt

NC1203115592 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 9 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Palestine ambassador to Cairo Sa'id Kamal has denied that Palestinians have been tortured or that human rights in Egypt have been violated. He said such reports are totally groundless.

The Palestinian ambassador affirmed that official Egyptian and Palestinian bodies are in constant contact to contain any problems that might emerge to hurt relations with Egypt.

An opposition weekly published a report that a number of state intelligence officers had tortured Palestinians and Arabs and have violated human rights.

U.S. 'Double Standard' on Arms Reduction Scored

LD1103230992 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers: Forty-two years ago the former USSR announced that it had discovered the secret of the atomic bomb and that it no longer feared the hydrogen bomb that the United States had developed.

Since that time bombs of mass destruction were no longer the monopoly of any single state. And for decades before the dissolution of the USSR the arsenals of the two superpowers were full of various kinds of nuclear weapons, including strategic and tactical nuclear missiles, in addition to other destructive weapons. But in spite of the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the end of the cold war, the disappearance of the danger of East-West confrontation, and the emergence of the United States as the world's superpower, the arsenals of nuclear and traditional weapons in the United States and other great powers have remained unchanged, and the plans for developing weapons of mass destruction have continued despite huge international changes.

The news about the North Korean ship said to be carrying advanced Scud missiles to Iran and Syria, and the United States' intention to intercept it, call to mind the reality about international arms, on the one hand, and the nature of the standards which the United States adopts—which are the standards of the new world order—toward the problems of arms in general and toward the Middle East in particular.

If arsenals of nuclear weapons were an element of deterrence and balance in the cold war era, and if the massing of traditional weapons of destruction by NATO and the erstwhile Warsaw Pact was meant to prepare for the danger of war between the two former camps, then what justification can the new world order give for keeping all these weapons of mass destruction and annihilation? After all, senior military experts and strategists admit that the dangers of such wars breaking out—and for which the superpowers have prepared themselves—no longer exist, and the new world order holds to the slogan of settling disputes by peaceful means, by giving diplomacy a greater role, and through the efforts of international organizations, particularly the United Nations, to settle these disputes on the basis of the principles of international law.

This is on the international level. With regard to the Middle East, if security and stability are required in this part of the world, and if the United States thinks that such security and stability require not only treating the symptoms of conflict in the region—primarily the arms race—but also treating the causes of these disputes on the basis of international legitimacy—if the United States is aware of all this—would the interception of the aforementioned ship really save the Middle East from the dangers of a new military confrontation and lead to the resolution of problems of security and stability? And if the aim is to prevent weapons of destruction from reaching the region in order to reduce tension, would this aim be achieved by confining efforts in this respect to traditional weapons, or confining it to one, rather than all, parties in the region, especially because nuclear weapons, which Israel is widely believed to have developed, are more dangerous and more destructive?

We believe that the criteria used in the field of disarmament in the Middle East are the same double standard criteria. And because solving the region's problems and disarming the region on the basis of international legitimacy are aims welcomed by all Arab parties, what needs

to be done is to deal with the issue of disarmament with one standard, not double standards. This should also include all weapons of destruction and annihilation, including nuclear weapons, because all realize that it makes no difference whether the source of weapons was the United States or any other country, and whether the weapons were Scud missiles or advanced U.S. warplanes or new ammunition sent to the region.

Algeria

Ghozali Comments on Economic Reforms, FIS Ban

LD1103113392 Algiers APS in English 1016 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Algiers, March 11 (APS)—Head of government Sid Ahmed Ghozali attributed the current increase of commodities' prices to "the absence of an organized national market". Being the host of "Meeting With the Press" TV programme, Ghozali estimated the price increase is due to "a disequilibrium between supply and demand" on the market and "the chain of middlemen whose activities are speeding up between producers and consumers within the scope of the informal market". Later he recalled that the state imported five thousand billion centime basics and that Algeria's share of world wheat importations is about 50 per cent of hard wheat. The head of government observed "price control does not suffice the solution lies within the improvement of the economy management, the rehabilitation of agricultural lands and an optimum exploitation of 2,300 wells drilled throughout the country which will enable the irrigation of 45 thousand hectares.

As for the communique of the Algerian trade union making the government assuming the responsibility of price increase, Ghozali noted "this phenomenon exists since two decades", asserting "no former government did show as much as readiness to dialogue with workers' representatives. Moreover, the head of government denied intentions which he is accused on the part of some social partners to seek to "get rid of public economic enterprises (EPE)". For the first time, about 42 million dinars, he said, are devoted to the financial rehabilitation of these enterprises. In the same vein, the head of government added "all these problems can be solved but this requires time, a long-term action and all nationals' confidence. While tackling the privatization of EPE, Ghozali recalled "the Algerian state suspended discussions last October with the World Bank whose prerequisite to its financing programme was "the public sector privatization". He also pointed out "the government refuses any ideological approach, what is important is to adopt "an approach enabling the moblization of all capabilities in Algeria".

Regarding negative reactions to the recent government reshuffle and to the expectations of "a radical change", Ghozali recalled he was the first who spoke about this radical change in the wake of the first round of the Dec 26 elections. "This radical change, he said, is not limited at a governmental reshuffle but it must concern the management of all affairs in Algeria, the reestablishment of the efficiency of the administration and the state authority.

Eventually, the head of government evoked the decision to dissolve the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) noting, "the latter occurred after the recent events that cost life to about 70 Algerians among whom more than a half was belonging to the security forces. FIS, he added, while officiallly making its action falling within a legal scope, resorted to violent actions to destabilize the state".

Council Discusses Price Controls, Aid to Poor

LD1103111692 Algiers APS in English 1024 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Algiers, Mar 11 (APS)—The council of government met Tuesday March 3, and Sunday March 8, under the chairmanship of the head of government, Sid Ahmed Ghozali. The council listened to a communication from the minister delegate to treasury on the advance of works related to the financial improvement of companies.

All the files (189) presented up till now to the ad-hoc commission have been treated. Following the meeting between the government, the trade union and the union of public companies, devoted last week to this subject, it was agreed that a time limit be fixed in common for the treatment of all the files of companies concerned by this measure. The council listened to an expose from the minister delegate to budget concerning the first accompanying measures of the government action program aimed at a better protection of the national production mainly in some sectors such as textiles and leather. These measures consist in:

—the suspension of the import of some products in which the capacities of the national production or stockpiling are important or sufficient.

—the setting up of compensatory rights when the national production is not sufficient.

After a debate, such proposals have been approved. The companies have been invited to suitably manage their stocks. In this context, it strongly encourages companies detaining heavy stocks, mainly in the field of textile and leather, to make special offers. Minister of education presented a report on the implementation in the forthcoming school year of measures of restructuring of secondary education adopted in 1991. These measures mainly concern the reduction of branches in relation with the needs of the university.

After a debate, the council approved the continuation of the implementation of the measures envisaged.

The council of government further listened to a communication from minister delegate to trade on the state of the implementation of measures for the social protection that will replace the support of prices. The new system which substitutes to fixed prices, a direct support to people with low revenues will be both fairer as it will benefit to the poorer persons and more economic as it prevents squandering and other effects of the present system. It has been confirmed that the system will cover the price increases envisaged.

Calm Returns to Setif University

LD1103235892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Calm returned yesterday [11 March] to Setif University, which has now experienced disturbances for weeks.

According to a report by APS, no incidents were recorded yesterday, and the peace-keeping force is still deployed in the university and outside the administrative building.

The scientific board of the university met yesterday to decide on the measures needed to resume teaching and administrative activities as soon as possible.

Atomic Energy Head Cites Reactor Accord

[Quotation marks as received]

LD1103113192 Algiers APS in English 1012 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 11/03/92 (APS)—In a declaration to the Egyptian paper "AL-AHRAM" the head of the International Agency for Atomic Energy indicated that "a lot was written on the Algerian nuclear reactor. Nevetheless, we have reached an accord of guarantee with Algeria which submitted the reactor to the control of the AIEA. "Even before the conclusion of this accord, the Algerian Government invited the AIEA to control Algeria's nuclear activities.

"Two AIEA representatives visited the site and observed the fuel and the reactor which is conceived for peaceful purposes. The AIEA head added that "considering that Algeria is not signatory of the convention on the nuclear non-proliferation, it is not compelled to disclose what it possess in that field. But that does not mean that it has other nuclear potentialities we have not seen".

Egypt

150 Islamists Arrested Since Police Shooting

NC1103193392 London MBC Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Security sources in Egypt declared today that approximately 150 Islamic fundamentalists have been arrested since a police officer was shot and killed last week. The police officer was killed in al-Fayyum. The security sources said that they will continue to search for the murderer until they find him.

AL-AHRAM published an article today in which it claimed that fundamentalists are also involved in an international plot to overthrow Egypt's regime. The paper added that the plot was led by three persons who work for a computer company in Egypt and that other persons from Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, and Turkey participated in the plot.

Three Killed in Coptic-Islamist Shoot-Out

NC1103192292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] In Asyut, Egypt three people were killed and five others injured, according to Egyptian security sources who said that the reason behind this was a shoot-out between Islamic fundamentalists and Christian Copts.

It is worth mentioning here that this incident is not the first of its kind between Muslim fundamentalists and Coptic Christians, who constitute 10 percent of Egypt's population.

Musa Urges Israel To Sign Nonproliferation Pact

NC1103124392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1018 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today welcomed procedures in China to sign the Nonproliferation Treaty and described this step as a very important contribution to world efforts to curb the hazards of nuclear weapons. He said that the Chinese measure will enhance the effectiveness of the treaty as a basis for a universal system to prevent nuclear proliferation and to eventually achieve full nuclear disarmament.

Musa called for intensified regional and international efforts to give form to that universal system by expanding the membership of the treaty to cover states that have their own nuclear programs, and particularly because we are coming closer to the 1995 conference of the treaty's signatories to discuss renewing the treaty.

The foreign minister affirmed that Egypt will resume its efforts to protect the Middle East against nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction through arrangements that equate the regional states in terms of rights and liabilities. These arrangements will cover all weapons of mass destruction without exception and will involve an efficient control system.

Musa appealed to Israel to adopt speedy measures to sign the Nonproliferation Treaty and to follow the example of its Arab neighbors as an initial step toward establishing a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East.

Government Issues Privatization Regulations

NC1003222492 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 7 Mar 92 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Salim]

[Text] The government has announced the regulations for the privatization of public sector companies. According to the regulations the companies to be privatized must not employ a large number of employees and must be making a profit. Strategically important companies will not now be put up for sale.

Fu'ad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, head of the technical bureau in the public business sector, has stated that Egyptian and foreign experts will take part in evaluating the assets of the companies before selling them. The technical bureau has received 83 offers from foreign, Egyptian, and mixed parties to take part in the evaluation process. He added that if a company is facing problems, the sale of some of its assets or property or one of its unused production lines will be examined to streamline its financial structure so that it can be sold at a later date. The evaluation process will be conducted by more than one quarter.

'Abd-al-Wahhab added that the final decision on selling any company lies with the legislature. He added that it is state policy that the shares be sold through the stock market to as many Egyptians as possible. Shares may be sold to foreigners, be they companies, banks, or individuals, even if the majority of shares is owned by foreigners. He noted that the new stock exchange law is now being drafted and that a group of foreign experts will come to Egypt to train Egyptians on how to cope with the new situation and to promote the Egyptian stock market.

Paper Criticizes 'Revelations' of Pentagon Plans

NC1203110792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0703 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA)—Today's AL-AHRAM editorial deals with the news that the Pentagon has prepared secret plans involving possible war scenarios. According to these plans the United States is the world's strongest power and must maintain its deterrent in the face of eventualities abroad, particularly in the Gulf and the Middle East.

AL-AHRAM says that the Pentagon plans include very important revelations, the foremost of which is the need for U.S. forces to deploy in forward positions and within reach of sources of oil, shipping lanes, and international airspace so as to crush any attempt to threaten U.S. interests, citizens, and property.

AL-AHRAM says that the Pentagon plans draw on the lesson of the Gulf war. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait has brought home to the United States the need to prevent any alliance of chaotic and demagogic regimes from controlling the Gulf and the Arabian peninsula. The Pentagon plans call for the United States to demonstrate its ability to employ a military deterrent and recommend increased security cooperation with regional countries.

The Pentagon plans, AL-AHRAM writes, note that a new U.S. strategy has emerged since the liberation of Kuwait. The new strategy aims not just at confronting challenges as they occur but at demonstrating the United States' ability to employ deterrent military force at any time to maintain its leading international role.

AL-AHRAM warns that there have been recent indications that the United States may be considering using this military force against Iraq and Libya. The recent attempts to increase international pressure against these two countries at the United Nations and the Security Council make such indications very real, AL-AHRAM states.

The paper notes that there is a great difference between the Iraqi and Libya cases, which is why it is necessary to find an appropriate method of dealing with each of them. We should warn, however, the paper says, that a strategy of force motivated by self-interest and a constant need to demonstrate superiority could be a recipe for extreme actions and an ill-advised choice of targets. One-upmanship could easily have a lugubrious effect on decisionmaking, AL-AHRAM concludes.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Seeks To 'Relinquish' Leadership

PM0903103892 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 5 Mar 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Al-Qadhdhafi in Cairo Today With Merger Plan"]

[Text] Cairo, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Informed sources in Cairo have announced that Libyan President [title as published] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will arrive in Cairo this evening (Thursday). The sources said that he will bring with him a plan prepared in advance for Libya's political and economic merger with Egypt.

The sources said that President al-Qadhdhafi will hold a round of talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak which will include his announcement of the unity between the two countries. A rumor has circulated in Arab political circles close to President al-Qadhdhafi concerning his desire to relinquish the Libyan political leadership and to hand over the responsibility to the elected People's Committees.

Al-Qadhdhafi Phones Mubarak on 'Current Issues'

NC1103190392 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, telephoned President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this evening. They exchanged views on current issues.

Sudan

Brigadier Sacked for 'Illegal Earnings'

EA1103200092 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Revolution Command Council [RCC] decrees: In the name of God; in the name of the people and the armed forces. Decree No. Six of 1992, a decree of dismissal:

After perusing the statutes of the first constitutional ordinance, Article Four, and the fourth constitutional ordinance, Article Six, a decree is hereby issued whose text follows:

Brigadier Martin Malwal Arop is dismissed from his post as member of the RCC as of the date of this decree. Signed by me today, 9 Ramadan 1412, corresponding to 11 March 1992, Lieutenant Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, national RCC chairman. Meanwhile, the RCC has issued the following statement:

The National Salvation Revolution has been operating since its inception according to the fixed principles of honor and honesty declared on its first day and to which it has firmly adhered. In this respect the revolution has persistently obliged all officials to observe these principles so that an official will be an example to his juniors and subordinates and an example of the covenant with the subjects. The RCC has made itself accountable to the standard measures of integrity, impartiality, and straightforwardness, and it has adhered to the principle of settling financial responsibility according to the statutes of the illegal wealth laws. The RCC shall, God willing, continue to persist on this path as long as your sons are in command of your pure revolution.

The RCC had earlier rejected a number of violations by RCC member Brig. Martin Malwal Arop concerning the diversion of some relief and (?normal) allocations to the corrupt (?retinue), which generated illegal earnings for him. Likewise, the RCC had rejected a number of special applications to authorize gasoline supplies from various quarters allegedly to be allocated to th southern provinces. The RCC has firmly established that Arop has purchased plots of land in a foreign country with his illegal earnings. The RCC confronted Brig. Martin on this issue, and he was unable to refute the allegations. Although his performance concerning some public works is appreciated, he is no longer considered worthy of the trust of the command according to the measures which the revolution has imposed on all and made binding and holy on the leadership. Therefore, the RCC has decided to dismiss Brig. Martin Malwal Arop as a member of the RCC and to send him into retirement as of today. God is the greatest; glory to Sudan.

Al-Bashir on Relations With Egypt, Other Issues

NC1103112192

[Editorial Report] Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic on 3 March publishes an approximately 3,000-word interview on page 3 with Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, by Badr-al-Din Adham in which al-Bashir affirms that "no Sudanese would dare to undermine sister Egypt's interests."

Asserting that he is "Egyptian to the bone" and that "all attempts to create discord between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples after the Gulf crisis have failed," al-Bashir points out that Egypt and Sudan "have all the necessary elements to achieve unity."

Touching on reports linking the Sudanese regime with terrorism, al-Bashir says: "I challenge anyone to specify a single camp in Sudan where terrorist operations are being carried out."

Asked about the next step in the process of bolstering Egyptian-Sudanese relations, al-Bashir says: "We will naturally implement the agreements reached during the visit to Egypt by Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih." He points out that two joint committees will be set up, "the first to tackle political and security issues, and the second to resolve the border dispute in Hala'ib."

Asked whether Sudan is experiencing a famine, al-Bashir says "you may have personally noticed that there is no famine. You saw how we farm wheat and corn, which constitute the main diet of the Sudanese people. We launched a national plan to link industries to locally available raw material by encouraging cotton-based industries, like garment making and weaving, in addition to the leather, processed fruits and vegetables, sugar, and alcohol industries. We also encourage exploitation of our animal and wood resources and the oil discovered in the south and west."

Asked how Sudan can handle immigration from eight neighboring states, al-Bashir remarks that a quarter of the Sudanese population are immigrants from Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Zaire, Uganda, and other states. He attributed this to the fact that the Sudanese borders are stretched and difficult to control. "To curb an increase in the number of immigrants, we demanded that all barriers on the borders with Egypt be removed, because Egyptians, at any rate, are more useful to the Sudanese than any others."

Asked when he will visit Egypt, al-Bashir replies "very soon," asserting that "there will be no Egyptian-Sudanese dispute" and that not a month passes without a Sudanese minister or two visiting Cairo.

Pointing out that Western media and some Arab and Egyptian media are seeking to spoil relations between Egypt and Sudan, al-Bashir asserts that "there has not been and will not be a single rocket aimed at our dear north on the entire Sudanese territories."

"I sense the need for unity with Egypt, because we need further coordination now more than ever," he says. "We want more than a million Egyptian families to live with us in Sudan, to farm together and eat together." He points out that he proposed to President Mubarak to establish an integrated zone for over 5 million people from the north and south.

Asked to comment on the Arab-Israeli talks, al-Bashir says: "We hope they will achieve the desired goals, but Israel is certainly stalling for time."

Asked when the curfew imposed on the Sudanese in June 1989 will be lifted, he remarks that the curfew does not

constitute any pressure on or fear from the people. "On the contrary, the curfew has become very popular among the people; it curbed theft."

Touching on the federal system applied in Sudan, al-Bashir says the system will guarantee every province the right to run its internal affairs as it deems fit. "As for exempting provinces from the application of Islamic shari'ah, this will be left for the local parliament of every province and the central government will not obstruct this process."

Asked about peace prospects in the south, al-Bashir says: "John Garang has his four famous conditions for peace: To implement a cease-fire agreement and withdraw the Armed Forces from the south to 13 degrees latitude; to entrust the task of security in Khartoum [as published] to a joint force of the Sudanese Armed Forces and Garang troops; to abolish Islamic shari'ah rule; and to abrogate the joint defense pact with Egypt and the cooperation protocols with Libya. Such terms are only made by a triumphant leader. We simply cannot tolerate a rebel charting the course of our relations with brothers in Egypt and Libya. We support peace that guarantees every citizen his rights. The south represents 20 percent of the Sudanese population and the southerners have their full right to participate in everything. It would be irrational for me to agree to abrogate the defense pact with Egypt and let Garang hold agreements with Addis Ababa."

Al-Bashir asserts that Garang is still getting assistance from Arabs. Asked who those Arabs are, al-Bashir refrains from naming them, adding that Garang is also getting assistance from clerical organizations and the International Red Cross. "The ecclesiastical government [not further specified] is still opening its doors and lands to give Garang access to assistance," he says.

When the interviewer remarked that the Sudanese Government is also buying weapons, al-Bashir replies, "Indeed we buy weapons. We have American weapons supplied through U.S. assistance and we have Russian weapons that were available through an old loan."

Al-Bashir concludes: "It is not odd for us to buy weapons from any state. We have offers, at very low prices, from the Commonwealth of Independent States."

On Islamic State

JN1103161592 Amman AL-RIBAT in Arabic 9 Mar 92 p 6

[Interview with Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, by Kamal Rashid and Yasir Abu-Hilalah in Khartoum—date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-RIBAT] Having entered its third year, what would you say are the most important features of the change introduced into Sudanese society by the Salvation Front.

[Al-Bashir] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In fact, the one who is officially in charge cannot notice the change. The change is noticed by people who come back to Sudan after having been absent. However, we can speak about basic issues. The basic issue is that of the laws and the establishment of an Islamic state. This is not easy. Not only in light of current international and regional developments, but also in the absence of any evident experiment in this regard. Because of the dichotomy between a true Islamic state and our current state of affairs, it is difficult for people to imagine the form of the state. So, each one has his own concept of the state. Actually, a true concept of the Islamic state does not exist. This is why we tried to establish an Islamic state to follow the example of our predecessors, taking into consideration the facts existing today on local, regional, and international levels. We feel that our interpretation has succeeded, praise be to God. There are different opinions. Some say that we are extremists, while others say that we are flexible. Everyone has his own opinion. We are satisfied with current developments in this regard, however, and we are continuing with the Islamization process. [passage omitted]

Regarding war and peace, we can say that despite the difficult circumstances, we have been able to rehabilitate the Armed Forces so that they can play their role; the Sudanese people have achieved stability; we have revived the tradition of jihad; and the Sudanese people have rallied around the Armed Forces, have rushed to training camps, and have participated in combat operations. We believe that we have achieved many successes, have liberated many areas, and have weakened the rebellion, after it had taken the initiative and gained land day after day. Now the opposite is true, and we hope that God will enable us to see an end to rebellion this year.

[AL-RIBAT] The gains Sudan has achieved in terms of its African and Islamic relations were lost on the Arab and Western levels, especially after the Gulf crisis. How can you establish your foreign relations in light of that fact?

[Al-Bashir] Before we came to power, Sudan's relations with the West had begun to deteriorate as a result of the Western countries' support for the rebellion, at least emotionally. There was a real Western fear of an Islamic tide on the Sudanese street. So, all of the political parties were compelled to adopt Islamic programs during elections in order to win the street. Even the communists announced that they were not against Islam.

After we came to power, and after the face of the Islamic revolution began to emerge, fears and suspicions surfaced. These fears and suspicions peaked during the Gulf crisis. People have grown accustomed to seeing Sudan adopt subservient stands. However, we automatically supported the side for whom support was believed to elicit the satisfaction of both God and our consciences. We had no consideration whatsoever for financial gains or losses.

We opposed the intervention of foreign troops. This did not satisfy the countries accustomed to seeing Sudan play a subservient role. We believe that the current position toward Sudan is caused by its pursuit of an Islamic approach. I do not think that there are any concessions that we can make to these countries to prompt them to improve their ties with us. We ask these countries to accept us as we are, since we do not interfere in their domestic affairs.

As I have said, our African relations have improved immensely. We were in total isolation in Africa. Africa was the exclusive domain of the rebel movement, which was acting freely in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania, Central Africa, and Chad. Africa was not then aware of the position of the government in northern Sudan. Since the inception of the revolution, all the presidents with whom we have met sound as though they are speaking on behalf of Garang. However, praise be to God, we have managed to clarify the picture. We have also managed to persuade numerous countries, such as Ethiopia, Chad, Uganda, and Tanzania, to change their positions vis-a-vis the rebel movement. Kenya is now the last stronghold dealing with the rebel movement. To the best of our knowledge, the Kenyans have begun efforts to cut the rebel movement down to size.

[AL-RIBAT] Where does Sudan stand with regard to the settlement march?

[Al-Bashir] We are with the Palestinian constants. We are aware of the Palestinian people's suffering and of what is intended against them. We are also aware of the support for and the strengthening with regard to Israel. The Sudanese live all dimensions of the Palestine question. The truth is that the West is planning and seeking to make Israel the state that has military and economic domination over the region. They have managed to achieve a great deal in this regard after succeeding in cutting the Arab power down to size. Threats are now being leveled against Libya, and things are happening in many other countries. Plans to make Israel the principal power are proceeding.

[AL-RIBAT] The Western media are reporting strikes and demonstrations in Sudan. We, however, do not see such things. How will you convey the true picture of Sudan in light of the Western media coercion?

[Al-Bashir] With regard to the media, Western media in general—which are internationally heard, read, and seen—of course is biased. They know the truth yet deliberately publish misleading and false news. Our capabilities are weak. The media we have inherited are neither heard nor seen even inside Sudan.

We have tried to convey our message to the Sudanese people inside Sudan and in neighboring countries. Our radio transmission has managed to cover Sudan and some neighboring countries. We are still trying to strengthen our radio transmission to cover the area surrounding us, an area by which we are affected and which we ourselves affect. We are also trying to make our voice heard through information attaches and through objective newspapers, which are few. [passage omitted]

Government Denies Launching Offensive in South

PM1203110492 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Mar 92 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Khartoum Denies Launching Major Offensive in Southern Sudan"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The Sudanese Government yesterday denied reports of an all-out offensive against the forces of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], reaffirmed its belief that war was futile, and expressed its hope of peace.

A statement issued by the Sudanese Embassy in London and received by AL-HAYAH yesterday said that the statements made by Sudanese leader Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir during his recent visit to Juba, capital of the south, confirmed that the government did not rely on the principle of fighting to resolve the problem of the South. It drew attention to his assertion that the government "was negotiating secretly and openly with the rebels" and that the government's negotiator was ready to go the moment he receives an indication of agreement by the other side and the moment a date and a venue for the negotiations are chosen.

The statement quoted the Sudanese Armed Forces General Command as saying that last week's SPLM threat to launch two attacks on Juba and Waw did not materialize and that its aim was "confusion and political gain."

Military Officer Urges Talks, End to Fighting

PM1103163792 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Mar 92 p 3

[Mu'awiyah Yasin report: "Sudanese Chief of Staff Tells AL-HAYAH: Fighting Will Not Solve Problem of Southern Sudan. We Will Settle Our Dispute With 'People's Movement' This Year"]

[Text] Khartoum—Staff Major General Muhammad 'Abdallah 'Uwaydah, official spokesman of the Sudanese Army [title as published], has admitted that the issue of the guerrilla war that has been raging in southern Sudan for nearly nine years now cannot be settled by military means because "the fighting shifts from one place to another." He added that ambushes by antigovernment forces in the south were continuing and that his country has no political borders with Kenya and Uganda at present, but he explained that his country's government wanted this year "to be decisive not through fighting but through vision and negotiations because, however much we fight, dialogue and negotiations are necessary."

In an interview with AL-HAYAH, Maj. Gen. 'Uwaydah vehemently attacked the Sudanese Army's former command which was toppled in the coup led by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir in 1989. He revealed

that the three officers leading the military opposition against the Sudanese regime—former commander in chief Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmad, Lieutenant General 'Abda-al-Rahman Sa'id, and Brigadier General al-Hadi Bishri Hasan—had left the country with diplomatic passports, with their departure from Khartoum Airport supervised by senior military officials.

He said that before leaving the country Brig. Gen. Bishri was summoned to the general headquarters, thanked for the burdens he had shouldered, and "offered a government post and a diplomatic passport. His last words before his plane took off were expressions of best wishes for his colleagues currently ruling Sudan."

'Uwaydah attacked his former commander Lt. Gen. Fathi 'Ali, saying that senior military commanders had asked him to seize power after the army officers' memorandum to former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in February 1989 "but he refused. Even if he succeeds in any action against the current regime, he would not be able to rule the country because he is neither popular in the army nor with the public." 'Uwaydah claimed that he had evidence that the military opposition leaders were receiving funds in foreign currency from one of the Ummah Party leaders abroad.

On the military situation in southern Sudan, 'Uwaydah said that government forces were in control of areas they never lost anyway, but he admitted that ambushes by forces of John Garang's Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] were still continuing.

On why the government has not fulfilled its promise of ending the rebellion by the end of last year, 'Uwaydah admitted that "guerrilla wars cannot be resolved because the fighting keeps shifting from one place to another." He said that the government was firm in defending its positions, "but we uphold the option of peace and general amnesty and we ask God to make this year a decisive one, not through fighting but through vision and negotiations." He warned those opposed to the Khartoum government that the hands which instigate internal crises would not give either side a chance to triumph.

'Uwaydah, who is chairman of the board of directors of the daily newspaper published by the Sudanese armed forces, said that his country does not, at present, have "political borders" with Kenya or Uganda. He denied claims that Khartoum was coordinating with the dissidents led by Riek Mashar and Lam Akol, who broke away from Colonel Garang. He said that "the government moved some food supplies to its citizens in al-Nasir area (headquarters of the dissidents) but that was done by civilians under a flag of truce."

In reply to a question about the increasing influence in the Army of the National Islamic Front [NIF], which backs the Sudanese regime, Maj. Gen. 'Uwaydah said: "We do not follow any party."

The military opposition had accused the regime of dismissing over 2,000 officers, but 'Uwaydah said he doubted the figure. He said that the majority of the dismissed officers had reached what is called "the qualification barrier," which meant that it was no longer possible to promote them to higher ranks because they did not have staff academy certificates. He said that the officers affairs department at general headquarters was instructed to inform every dismissed officer in writing of the reasons for the dismissal.

There have been rumors in Khartoum that the NIF was recruiting some of its members into the army with high ranks. Maj. Gen. 'Uwaydah, however, said that the army was "a national institution. The need for officers is usually advertised in the press and radio. Acceptance of applicants is based on a decision by an evaluation committee and after the applicants pass their medical."

It is believed that the Sudanese Army recently received large quantities of military equipment from Iran after Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Sudan in December. That prompted its commanders to commit large forces to the jungles of southern Sudan. The Sudanese Government, however, has reversed its policy of military escalation and has recently been focusing on the negotiation option for a peaceful settlement of the problem of the south.

Western Sahara

Polisario Accuses Morocco of Violating Truce

LD1103135192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] The Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro] Front has accused the Moroccan Army of firing for more than three hours in the Farsia region of Western Sahara yesterday. This incident violated the truce signed between the two sides.

The Saharan Government has protested strongly to the UN Security Council and has asked it to assume its responsibilities by working to implement the peace plan.

Kuwait

Minister on Oil Output Cut, Higher Kuwaiti Quota

LD1203100292 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0849 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Oil Minister Dr. Hamud al-Ruqbah called today for the cooperation of all OPEC and non-OPEC member states facing a slump in the demand for oil this summer. He also asked for an increase in Kuwait's oil production quota for objective reasons.

In a statement to the paper SAWT AL-KUWAYT the oil minister said that a reduction in production is required so that the oil buying states' existing oil reserves are used up.

He added that in the event of current continued production OPEC production will not be fully used by the consuming states. This will enable oil buyers to have large oil reserves on which to rely in order to meet their increasing oil needs next winter, which means that summer prices will remain unchanged next winter.

He also said that for this reason OPEC member states must set a new fixed ceiling in order to ensure that the existing reserves are used up. In this way, reserves by next winter will be very low, and this will lead to an increase in oil prices.

The oil minister said that there should be coordination on this matter with oil producing countries outside OPEC, for they produce 60 percent of the world's oil. This should take place at the upcoming meeting between OPEC and non-OPEC oil producing countries in April so that policies can be coordinated and non-OPEC countries take part in the planned production cut. The minister ruled out the possibility of new countries joining OPEC, especially in light of the great changes on the world map and the emergence of new countries, some of which have extensive oil resources.

The minister pointed out that Kuwait's production will reach the production ceiling set for it by OPEC: 1.5 million barrels per day by the end of the current year. He said that Kuwait's quota is firm and indisputable, but it should be increased for several reasons: first, Kuwait was deprived of production for a long time due to the vicious Iraqi invasion; second, Kuwait's oil resources are very large, which enables it to increase production; and third, Kuwait's production capacity is more than the ceiling of 1.5 barrels per day.

Crown Prince Discusses Saddam, Democracy, Torture

AU1103091292 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 9 Mar 92 pp 200-208

[Interview with Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah by correspondents Bernd Doerler and Adel S. Elias; date and place not given: "Saddam Will Do It Again"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Your Highness, feasts and dances were prohibited on the anniversary of Kuwait's liberation from the Iraqi occupation. Was there no reason to celebrate?

[Al-Sabah] The Iraqi regime still holds our compatriots in prison. We are refraining from celebrations because we have to take the relatives' feelings into consideration. We are only a small people, like a family. The misfortune of individuals affects all of us.

[DER SPIEGEL] There is hardly a ruler in the Middle East who has known Iraq's Saddam Husayn better and longer than you. What kind of man is he?

[Al-Sabah] I know him really well. I got to know him particularly well when he was in a tight spot for eight years waging that foolish war against Iran. At the time nobody helped him as we did...

[DER SPIEGEL] For absolutely selfish reasons. After all, he kept the Iranian fundamentalists away from your border.

[Al-Sabah] At that time Saddam confirmed to me frequently enough how much he appreciated our help and depended on it. And I believed him. At that time I thought that he was a prudent and responsible statesman. This assessment was finally destroyed when he attacked my country so insidiously. This man is a tyrant and despot without any human feelings. He will remain a threat and a danger to us all as long as he lives.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you still feel threatened by Saddam Husayn even after his disastrous defeat by the allied forces?

[Al-Sabah] Nobody should trust this person any more. He has not abandoned his expansionist plans at all and he will do it again and again. It is our hope that Saddam will still be watched and be kept down by the United Nations in the future. We have to expect the worst as soon as he is able to buy new weapons with his oil revenues.

[DER SPIEGEL] After your return from exile you announced free elections and the introduction of democracy. However, the Kuwaiti opposition and international human rights organizations are complaining that the situation in your country has even deteriorated since that time. Do you still intend to stick to your promise?

[Al-Sabah] I know these reproaches, but they are only rumors designed to denounce my government from abroad. His highness the amir of Kuwait made it quite clear that free parliamentary elections will be held this October. We will keep this promise. Democracy will come to Kuwait.

[DER SPIEGEL] Only 60,000 privileged persons who are chosen in an obscure way are entitled to vote. And political parties are not permitted at all.

[Al-Sabah] That figure is not correct. It is more than 90,000 males.

[DER SPIEGEL] Ninety thousand out of about 800,000 citizens. Is that not a very small number?

[Al-Sabah] You cannot reproach me for the fact that the majority of the Kuwaiti people are under 21 and are thus not yet entitled to vote. It is also not my fault that our women have not been permitted to vote so far. This is not my decision alone; it is the parliament's concern.

[DER SPIEGEL] What about permitting parties?

[Al-Sabah] We do not have parties in Kuwait and we do not need any. The Kuwaitis are members of one big family; they depend on each other and mutually support each other.

[DER SPIEGEL] There is a saying: One cannot be a little pregnant. Those who really want democracy must also permit parties.

[Al-Sabah] No, no, I do not believe in party pluralism. It is good for you in the West but not for my people.

[DER SPIEGEL] Kuwait's substitute parliament was not freely elected but rather was appointed by the ruler. Moreover, the part of the Constitution that restricts the power of the royal family has been invalid since 1986.

[Al-Sabah] That is correct. At that time the amir dissolved the parliament because of the imminent destabilization of the country from both external and internal sources. By suspending a few articles of the Constitution he was able to make decisions for the security and the welfare of our country, and without having to ask anybody. But the old constitution will, of course, be completely reinstated in the upcoming parliamentary elections. That is the first thing that we will order.

[DER SPIEGEL] Kuwaiti opposition leader 'Abdallah al-Nibari is accusing the al-Sabah clan of abusing its privileges, especially for its personal enrichment.

[Al-Sabah] This was certainly not what al-Nibari meant. I know him very well; I know what he thinks of us. The mere fact that he can make such a statement in public, however, is a good example of our democracy.

[DER SPIEGEL] One of the opposition's main demands is that the royal family should content itself with the role of a constitutional monarchy, such as in Britain or Scandinavia.

[Al-Sabah] Like any other Kuwaiti family our family also has the right and duty to serve the country. It is a gross mistake to believe that it would be better for Kuwaitis if my family were relieved of its state responsibility. We are no absolutist rulers, but why should a talented and able man not be permitted to assume a ministerial post only because his name is al-Sabah?

[DER SPIEGEL] After the end of the Gulf war the Arab camp is divided more than ever. The overwhelming majority of Arabs live in dire poverty, while a few, above all in the Gulf emirates, are extravagantly rich. Can this crass social contrast be permanently maintained?

[Al-Sabah] I can only speak as someone who is responsible for Kuwait. We have always felt bound to help our Arab brothers, especially the poorer ones. We have given these countries a lot of money.

[DER SPIEGEL] Many Arab countries are complaining, however, that the donations no longer flow as before.

[Al-Sabah] At the moment we are not able to give so much because of the destruction of our oil production facilities and the subsequent loss of revenue. As soon as we regain our old economic power, there will again be more money.

[DER SPIEGEL] Does this also apply to the Palestinians, or will Kuwait continue to punish them for their leadership's support of Saddam Husayn during the Gulf war?

[Al-Sabah] We help all those Palestinians who are suffering directly from the Israeli occupation regime—despite PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's one-sided support of the Baghdad tyrant. We will continue to support the Palestinian people until they regain their homeland.

[DER SPIEGEL] You are helping the Palestinians in the occupied territories. But Palestinians who have lived for 40 years in Kuwait and have contributed decisively to your country's growth are persecuted, tortured, and forcibly deported.

[Al-Sabah] We only persecute the Palestinians who clearly collaborated with the Iraqi occupation forces. Here we show no mercy.

[DER SPIEGEL] At the beginning of the invasion more than 300,000 Palestinians—men, women, and children—lived in your country. It is unlikely that all of them were collaborators and helped the Iraqi torturers, as is now claimed.

[Al-Sabah] There were certainly also some who fought against the Iraqi aggression at my people's side. But they were in the minority. Most of them left Kuwait immediately after the invasion because public services and the private economy had broken down and many jobs had thus been destroyed. After my return from exile I offered to pay departure costs to every Palestinian who no longer felt at ease or safe in Kuwait. To my amazement, most of them only wanted to leave the country if we guaranteed that they would be permitted to return.

[DER SPIEGEL] What is so amazing about that? After all, they had built a life for themselves in Kuwait.

[Al-Sabah] Then I ask you: If Palestinians are allegedly tortured in our country, why then do they want a guarantee that they will be permitted to return? Only those who supported Saddam Husayn were bad off. They can now move to their friend in Baghdad.

[DER SPIEGEL] The charge of torture does not only come from Palestinians. Even a U.S. human rights commission ascertained serious human rights violations and maltreatment by Kuwaiti citizens. Even members of the al-Sabah family participated in torture.

[Al-Sabah] That happened, but it was before we returned from exile and resumed responsibility in the government. My government cannot be held responsible for such maltreatment, however. When the Iraqis hastily left our country in late February 1991, there was a legal vacuum and real anarchy for a few days. However, these inroads immediately ceased when we resumed power. Only liars like 'Arafat claim that people continued to be tortured.

[DER SPIEGEL] The material damage caused in Kuwait by the Iraqi devastation has meanwhile largely been repaired. How long will it take your people to overcome the traumatic experiences of the occupation period?

[Al-Sabah] Saddam brought much misery on our society. What happened in particular to the Kuwaiti women and girls who were raped by Iraqi soldiers is a tragedy. I saw to it that modern medical and psychological help is provided to these unfortunate women to mitigate their mental pain, at least to some extent. It will take a long time to forget this nightmare, however.

[DER SPIEGEL] The unity you evoke in the Kuwaiti people seems to be in danger. As a matter of fact, there is today deep discord between the citizens who remained in the country during its occupation and those who waited in safe foreign countries for the occupation to end.

[Al-Sabah] It is correct that there have been problems and a certain distance between those who remained here and the people in exile. But I would not go so far as to speak of discord. At any rate, we are well on our way to solving these problems.

[DER SPIEGEL] Your Highness, thank you for this interview.

Interior Minister Comments on End to Censorship

PM1003102692 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 4-10 Mar 92 pp 34, 39

[Interview with Information Minister Badr al-Ya'qub by Husayn 'Abd-al-Rahman in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] ['Abd-al-Rahman] What is your feeling after the lifting of censorship of Kuwaiti newspapers, especially because you said that you were proud of that achievement?
[Al-Ya'qub] I did not say that I was proud of lifting censorship of newspapers, because it did not come from me. It was the result of a clear desire on the part of Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, heir apparent and prime minister. The Kuwaiti press is mature and was famous before the invasion. Censorship was imposed under conditions which prompted it, especially after the Iraqi aggression. When we entered liberated Kuwait there were agents of the Iraqi regime there, and some of them are still spread across the country. So it was necessary to implement an information, economic, and social plan. Censorship was also necessary for a period so that some people would not fish in muddy waters. But, thank God, the Kuwaiti press was excellent during the censorship period. Chief editors of the newspapers were, and remain, cooperative. They all fully meet their responsibility. They vie with one another in pursuing the homeland's higher interests. The Information Ministry was relieved of a major burden when censorship was lifted, and the brothers were able to devote their efforts to other areas. Kuwait is still a target and the enemy still has designs on it. This is why caution is necessary. I personally cooperate with chief editors in resolving whatever issues may occur. They themselves apply a kind of self-censorship on anything published, but that does not prevent articles here and there from being published from time to time. And I hope that all articles will be committed and constructive, not destructive. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Rahman] Will the weapon of Article 35 be used?
[Al-Ya'qub] I hope that that article will not be used and that censorship will not be imposed on the press again. But chief editors of newspapers should consider the building process. This is because Kuwait is a country which has a history, a past, a civilization, and a democratic experiment in the world, and all articles must support this line. The writer can criticize and attack—but objectively and without defamation. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Rahman] It seems that the political religious tendency has started to invade the Kuwaiti media.
[Al-Ya'qub] The Kuwaiti media address all social groups, and since the liberation of Kuwait some brothers have participated in good programs which viewers have welcomed. They now discuss and tackle our problems objectively.

['Abd-al-Rahman] What about the method of paying foreign newspapers?
[Al-Ya'qub] The Information Ministry has never used that method. It participates with newspapers in general. We present the facts to the world and invite journalists to see what is happening and to write about it.

['Abd-al-Rahman] Do you believe that the establishment of information bureaus abroad stems from our embassies' weaknesses?
[Al-Ya'qub] Information bureaus complement our embassies' work. The ambassador's job is above all political.

['Abd-al-Rahman] Are you satisfied with yourself as an information minister?
[Al-Ya'qub] Praise be to God, I believe that I have performed my duty and done all I can.

['Abd-al-Rahman] Are foreign journalists allowed to speak and move freely in Kuwait?
[Al-Ya'qub] They move entirely freely. We only banned THE TIMES, because its articles were defamatory. I believe in constructive criticism, not in personal defamation and lies.

Further on Tariq 'Aziz-UN Security Council Talks

'Aziz Speech to Security Council

JN1103203192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1954 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] New York, 11 Mar (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has emphasized the need for the UN Security Council to adopt an equitable and objective resolution regarding the economic embargo being imposed on the Iraqi people.

In his speech before the UN Security Council this evening he said that despite what has been accomplished with regard to implementing the Council resolutions, including the provisions of Resolution 687, the Council has not changed its stand on the embargo and has not taken into consideration the UN Charter and international law on the rights of civilians.

In his speech Tariq 'Aziz explained that Iraq has sent the Council a number of letters and memorandums on its position and on the extent to which it has implemented the provisions of Resolution 687. These attempts, however, have been ignored due to the influence of a small number of influential and dominant Council members.

'Aziz spoke about the false accusations and tendentious and extremist conclusions that are still being raised every now and then with regard to Iraq's position on this or that issue, thereby misleading the Council into believing that Iraq is not heeding the aforementioned resolution. The aim is to maintain the embargo against it.

'Aziz pointed out that individuals connected with the intelligence services of certain states and who served on some of the inspection teams that visited Iraq have been used to fabricate these crises with the aim of keeping the Council confused.

He said that Iraq, which made major contributions to human civilization and whose great antiquities fill the museums of London, Paris, Berlin, and New York, is now being exposed to an unjust blockade. It is being prevented from importing chlorine to sterilize its drinking water and it is not allowed to import food, medicine, baby milk, soap, detergent, and educational materials, including paper to print school textbooks.

In his speech Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz reviewed the dimensions of the destruction resulting from the unjust 30-state aggression against Iraq. He said that it intentionally targeted the entire civilian infrastructure: bridges, roads, railroads, electricity plants, water purification plants, civilian factories, dams, communication centers, mosques, churches, schools, universities, hospitals, and citizens' homes.

He added: The facts about this comprehensive destruction have become known to all honest people in the world. Scores of books, films, and reports have been issued, and symposiums have been held on these facts in many parts of the world.

The deputy prime minister also reviewed Iraq's positive response to UN Security Council resolutions and its cooperation with all inspection teams, the special committee, and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. The substantial truth was intentionally concealed from the Council, however, thus resulting in the continued atmosphere of doubt over Iraq's position.

Tariq 'Aziz emphasized Iraq's readiness to continue to cooperate with the special committee and the IAEA to carry out the tasks defined by UN Security Council Resolution 687.

He said: Iraq is ready for this on the basis of respect for its sovereignty and dignity, provided that Iraq's national security is not encroached upon and that the objectives defined by the Security Council Resolution 687 are not transformed into a means to deprive our people and country of a normal, free life like all free nations in the world.

He called for a technical meeting to be held as soon as possible at a time set by the Council. The meeting is to be between representatives from Iraq and the special committee, and it is to be attended by representatives of all Security Council members. In this meeting the special committee would present all the information and statements pertinent to Security Council Resolution 687. During this meeting a comprehensive review of all statements and information requested by the special committee would be conducted.

He emphasized that keeping the issues vague and unresolved, and giving absolute power to the special committee alone to issue resolutions, means the permanent linking of the Iraqi people's fate, possessions, sovereignty, and security to a side that does not exist in the UN Charter, and without Iraq having a say on this issue.

The following is the text of the speech by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz:

'Aziz said: This is the first time that an opportunity has arisen for us to present our views to the Council at this level within the framework of the Council's dealings with Iraq. Armed military force was used against Iraq between 17 January and 28 February 1991 under the cover of UN Resolution 678 of 28 November 1990. Indeed, some of our formations were exposed to aerial bombardment—for example, as happened on 2 March 1991—after the announcement of the cessation of military hostilities.

The entire world is aware of the way in which Resolution 678 was implemented, a way which sought the complete destruction of the entire Iraqi infrastructure: bridges, roads, railways, power stations, water purification plants, civilian factories, a baby milk factory, dams, and communication centers. Destruction was also brought to Iraqi citizens and their property, residential areas, mosques, churches, schools, universities, hospitals, civilian shelters, drug stores, and food storage centers.

'Aziz said: The facts of the ruthless and comprehensive destruction are now known to all fair-minded people of the world. Dozens of books, films, and reports have been issued and symposiums have been held in all corners of the globe, including this city. Here I quote [name indistinct] the UN secretary general's envoy who visited Baghdad from 10 to 17 March 1991. He sent a report to the secretary general on 30 March 1991 which stated: Most of the modern life-supporting means have been destroyed, and Iraq has been returned to the preindustrial age and will remain there for some time.

Moreover, some Council members, including permanent members—and not us—said that the destruction operations went beyond Resolution 678 and that this resolution was transformed into a political tool to destroy an independent country.

He added: Despite this, as you know, Iraq informed the Council on 28 February 1991 that it accepted full compliance with Resolution 660 and all other Security Council resolutions.

Then, Resolution 686 was issued on 2 March 1991. This resolution encompassed a substantial principle which the Council emphasized, and which asserted the commitment of all countries to Iraq's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

After this resolution the Council began to formulate the principles and measures needed for the official cease-fire declaration. Hence, Resolution 687 was issued on 3 April 1991.

This resolution encompassed measures and conditions that were unprecedented in the history of the United Nations because they to a great extent went beyond the original limits that the Council had set [words indistinct] the declared objectives.

Iraq, as an independent and sovereign state, expressed its opinion on the aforementioned resolutions based on the UN Charter, international law [words indistinct] and the principles of justice and fairness. Despite this, the Iraqi Government accepted Resolution 687 in order to spare our people the dangers that were threatening it.

He added: It has been more than 11 months since Resolution 687 was issued. During that time Iraq began to and sincerely sought to implement the provisions of this resolution.

In this regard I would like to note that on 23 January 1992 the Iraqi foreign minister sent a comprehensive letter in which he explained in an objective manner supported by evidence how much of Resolution 687's provisions that Iraq has implemented. The substance of the letter, which I hope that all members have carefully examined, shows that the substantial points of those provisions have been implemented.

While I request that the substance of the aforementioned comprehensive letter from the Iraqi foreign minister be linked to the content of this statement with regard to the Council's assessment of the situation, allow me to focus in some detail on some aspects of the issue that has, since last summer, been a source of crises and accusations made against Iraq without a careful examination.

He pointed out that the remainder of the weapons which the Security Council has totally prohibited Iraq from possessing, including missiles and chemical equipment, is being destroyed under the supervision of the inspection teams within [words indistinct] between the competent Iraqi authorities and these teams. All the equipment used or allegedly used to produce these weapons was identified because the inspection teams visited all the factories and sites they wanted to visit. They saw and examined this equipment and marked it to guarantee that it would not be used. From May 1991 to February 1992 29 inspection teams visited Iraq. The number of members of these teams reached 400 inspectors, and they worked 240 days. During this time they carried out 415 inspections, including 127 surprise visits without prior notification to [words indistinct] all Iraqi territories, and used the most sophisticated means of inspection, communications, and surveillance [words indistinct] including helicopters, which were used to conduct extensive aerial surveys in many parts of Iraq. These helicopters carried out 45 survey operations, and their sorties carried out for different purposes totaled 120, each of which lasted for four to eight hours. During the same period the U.S. U-2 reconnaissance aircraft also carried out 32 sorties over Iraq. Each aerial reconnaissance and survey operation lasted more than three to four hours.

Tariq 'Aziz said: The various inspection teams supervised 40 incidents of destroying missile systems, chemical weapons, and equipment and their accessories. The items, which were destroyed under the supervision of these teams, totaled [figure indistinct] and included parts of factories, missiles, launchers, equipment, and chemical weapon cartridges. In addition, the Iraqi side destroyed more than 270,000 items [words indistinct] the remains of which were inspected by the inspection teams. Around 1,500 tonnes of raw materials were also destroyed. The pieces of equipment and machinery sealed or prevented from being moved by the inspection teams during the military operations also totaled 1,000, in addition to what was destroyed during the military operations. No site of the aforementioned systems was safe from the severe destruction of both buildings and equipment.

He added: The clear deduction to be made from this is that Iraq no longer possesses any weapons, equipment, or primary and secondary systems banned in accordance with Resolution 687. The equipment used or claimed to be used in production has been examined and its usage was frozen or transferred to civilian industry or an industry not banned by Resolution 687. He said that all this is taking place under the supervision of the inspection teams.

'Aziz added: This essential fact has deliberately been concealed from the Council, and an atmosphere of doubt concerning Iraq's position was imposed on the Council.

The other issue that I will deal with was also used as a pretext to cast doubt on and make tendentious accusations against Iraq, namely the so-called detained Kuwaitis in Iraq. The competent Iraqi authorities, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], have returned 6,520 Kuwaitis and other nationals since 4 March 1991 and up to the present. There are currently 594 Kuwaitis living freely in Iraq—they are not detained—and they were registered by the ICRC mission in Baghdad. The Kuwaiti authorities permitted only 468 of them to return.

Tariq 'Aziz added: It is worth mentioning that the Kuwaiti authorities submitted a list of 2,242 persons and claimed that they are presently in Iraq. It has been proven, however, that 233 of those included in the list have actually been returned to Kuwait under the supervision of the ICRC and that 59 persons from the same list are still in Iraq awaiting the Kuwaiti authorities' permission to return.

We have clarified our position on this issue more than once to the UN Security Council and the Arab League, whose envoy visited us to investigate the facts. However, the false claim that Iraq still detains Kuwaitis continues to be repeated by some states. Those who are making this false accusation are not at all interested in the logical side of the issue. What benefit is there for Iraq to detain 1,000 or 2,000 ordinary Kuwaiti citizens at a time when it has returned senior officers and officials, including 20 members of the Kuwaiti ruling family? In order to remove ambiguity and to ascertain the truth, on 20 February 1992 we asked the ICRC, in an official memorandum, to comprehensively attend to this issue and to take whatever steps are necessary to verify the facts.

'Aziz added: The same goes for the issue of property. We submitted lists and expressed our readiness to return what they contained. Indeed, we returned large numbers and quantities of this property. Iraq is not responsible for the remainder of this property. The competent representative of the secretary general is the official in charge of following up the receipt of property from Iraq. Iraq is ready to cooperate in this regard to facilitate his mission.

Because I am not going to dwell any longer on the provisions enshrined in Resolution 687, I would like to affirm that Iraq has implemented the greater and essential portions of the provisions contained in the aforementioned resolution addressed by Sections A, B, D, and H of the resolution, as explained in the letter sent by the Iraqi foreign minister and of which I have spoken. The implementation of the resolution's remaining provisions is proceeding according to normal procedures. It should be noted that the complete implementation of these provisions requires a certain amount of time. As for Iraq, it is cooperating seriously and professionally to accomplish this task.

'Aziz continued: Paragraph 21 of Resolution 687 requires that the Security Council review every 60 days the provisions enshrined in paragraph 20, which provides for the maintenance of the economic blockade pending the implementation of the relevant Council resolutions, to determine whether the Council will ease or lift the blockade mentioned in the aforesaid paragraph. Since the first time it reviewed Iraq's compliance with these resolutions up to the present, the Council has continued to announce after each review session that Iraq has not thus far complied with the resolutions. Therefore, the blockade has remained in force and the suffering of 18 million Iraqis has continued. We have sent numerous letters and memorandums on this issue to the Council. In addition, our permanent representative has spoken to the Council several times to explain Iraq s position and the extent to which it has implemented the provisions enshrined in Resolution 687. These attempts, however, have fallen on deaf ears thanks to the influence of a few influential and perhaps hegemonic Council members. Storms of false accusations have been raised against Iraq in this regard. Furthermore, tendentious and extremist conclusions have repeatedly been drawn about Iraq's position toward this or that issue. Thus the Council has been fooled by a climate of deception and has been led to believe that Iraq is not complying with the provisions of the aforementioned resolution. Personnel associated with the intelligence services of some countries and who worked for the inspection teams that visited Iraq have been hired to keep the Council deceived.

Here I would like to remind the Council that the first step to implement Resolution 687 was taken during the weeks and months that followed the military operations, when Iraq was suffering bitterly from the effects of the total destruction of its power, communications, and telecommunications sectors and from the destruction of the [word indistinct] buildings and documents and other things due to thousands of tonnes of explosives having been dropped on all areas. None of those who issued the resolutions tried to show understanding or sympathy for the tragic situation from which Iraq was suffering. The demands and decisions concerning the implementation of this or that paragraph of the resolution were adopted hastily and fell like hammers without consideration for Iraq's suffering.

Here I would remind the Council and the international community through it that the states to which I referred were not satisfied with Iraq's compliance with Resolution 687 as a condition for lifting the economic blockade. Weeks after that resolution was issued and while Iraq was beginning to implement the provisions of that resolution, these states announced that they would not lift the economic blockade unless the political leadership in Iraq was changed, and these states are still repeating that

condition, which conflicts with the principles of the UN Charter and the Security Council's resolutions.

Thus, the aforementioned states exploited Resolution 687 for political purposes not stated in the resolutions, as I mentioned before.

The hue and cry raised by some members of the inspection teams served the aims of these states to have the Council issue new resolutions containing provisions [words indistinct] than the provisions of Resolution 687 without considering Iraq's difficult circumstances.

The aim was to blackmail Iraq, keep it under suspicion, and to use this fabricated and false atmosphere to maintain the unjust economic blockade on Iraq's people. The aforementioned states are exploiting this situation to threaten, as they like, to again use military force against Iraq in order to achieve the goals that they imagine will change Iraq's political system and destroy Iraq.

The deputy prime minister added: In our memorandums and letters to the Council, and in our talks with Ambassador Ekeus during his three visits to Baghdad, particularly the last one, we said: You raise suspicions on this or that issue. Let us sit together, both experts from the special committee and Iraqi experts, and review every field and every issue. Let us discuss any question. We are ready to cooperate.

We did this several times with the inspection teams. The Iraqi experts sat with these teams and held discussions in a scientific and professional way and in a constructive atmosphere. The Iraqis answered thousands of questions and provided the teams with thousands of pieces of information and requested documents. The last of these were discussions held with two members of the special committee at the end of January 1992; these talks were extremely positive and fruitful. Out of 29 teams that have visited Iraq, objective and fair statements were made by the heads of 24 of them with regard to the good cooperation displayed bv the Iraqi authorities and the positive results that were achieved. In this regard I would like to point to the positive statement made by Mr. Zifferero, head of the 10th nuclear team, in which he emphasized and praised Iraq's cooperation with the inspection teams.

So, why has this constructive and objective approach not been adopted? Why resort to incitement and accusation? As it is clear, the reason is political, a tendentious political reason that has nothing to do with the process of implementing the provisions of Resolution 687.

We have come to this meeting with good intentions and a serious desire to explain facts and to reach an understanding with the Council on issues related to implementing Resolution 687, to clarify matters about which doubts are being cast and accusations made, and to tackle the issues that need tackling. Our delegation is ready to clarify to the Council members all the relevant points about which they would like to know. As for the issues that were raised, particularly the recent statement issued by the Council on 28 February 1992, I would like to clarify the following:

1. Iraq is ready to continue cooperating with the special committee and the IAEA to accomplish the tasks defined by Resolution 687.

2. Iraq, which has provided a huge amount of data, information, and documents and which has answered thousands of questions from the inspection teams, is ready to continue cooperating in this regard to complete the picture in accordance with the objectives set by Resolution 687.

3. Iraq is ready to reach a scientific solution on the issue of the UN Security Council's verifying Iraq's capability to produce weapons banned in accordance with Resolution 687.

4. Iraq is ready to reach agreement on a practical mechanism concerning the issue of equipment related to the provisions of Paragraph C of Resolution 687 in order to make them harmless.

'Aziz added: Iraq is prepared for that, based on respect for its sovereignty and dignity and the safeguarding of its national security, and provided that the aims defined by Security Council Resolution 687 may not be transformed in a way that prevents our people and country from living free lives similar to those of other free peoples of the world.

Mr. President, as for the issue of completing the information and statements about which accusations and doubts are continually raised, our delegation proposed holding a technical meeting as soon as possible and as the Council deems proper between Iraqi representatives and representatives from the special committee. This could be attended by representatives of all Security Council members. In this meeting the special committee could ask questions about information and issues related to Resolution 687. A comprehensive, open discussion will take place concerning the statements, information, and documents that Iraq has already presented at the Committee's request.

Thereafter, and within a period of time, a comprehensive report on the situation will be (?presented) to the Council so that this issue will be removed from the tendentious political stands and rather be placed within an objective framework so that the facts will appear as they are to the Council. Thus, the Council's demands for a complete, comprehensive, and final statement on the programs concerned could be met in a scientific, objective, and serious manner.

As for the issue of ascertaining Iraq's capability to manufacture the banned weapons in the future, we have affirmed that we are prepared to [word indistinct] but due consideration must be given to Iraq's sovereignty and national security. Practical arrangements must be made that come within the framework of the goals

defined by the Security Council, and they should not exceed these goals for political and intelligence objectives. Let us take an example. The special committee chose a U-2 aircraft to carry out aerial surveys of Iraq. The plane belongs to the United States, which makes daily announcements of its intentions to strike at Iraq's political leadership. Do we expect this plane to be used to carry out the special committee's work or rather to be employed for intelligence purposes?

We have to express fears and doubts. How can we explain the fact that this plane carried out 15 flights over Baghdad [word indistinct] with each flight lasting between three and four hours? This was repeated several times in one month [word indistinct] the beginning of this year. Why don't we choose some other plane from a neutral state and which would take off from an Iraqi airport and include an Iraqi pilot to assure that it is implementing Resolution 687 and not pursing political or intelligence activities that threaten Iraq's security? For how long will these extraordinary measures continue? Do not Iraq's security and sovereignty deserve to have set a reasonable date for ending these suspect surveillance missions? This issue must be tackled with fairness and seriousness.

'Aziz said: To settle the issue of future verification once and for all and in a constructive fashion, we propose that a joint discussion of the relevant plans be held. The inspection teams displayed understanding for this option when we expressed it to them during their missions in Iraq. As for the equipment that can be modified for other [word indistinct] uses in accordance with Resolution 687, we must ask ourselves the following questions: What is the real objective of the provisions contained in paragraph 8 of Resolution 687? Is it to prevent Iraq from becoming an industrialized country and to destroy all of its advanced industries and industrial installations, or is it to prevent it from producing the equipment banned by Resolution 687? If the objective is the former, then is it possible for our people to accept being deprived of their advanced industrial base and returning to the preindustrial age, as enunciated by the threat expressed by the U.S. secretary of state during our Geneva meeting of 9 January 1991? The Iraqi people will not accept this. If the Council's objective is to ensure that this equipment will not be used to produce banned weapons, in accordance with Resolution 687, however, then we are ready to cooperate in this matter.

The resolutions and general terminology can be used to mean different things. What we demand is the use of specific terms to explain the objective and to identify the means of implementation, as well as the conduct to be observed by the special committee and the IAEA in light of the objective. It is possible for us to agree on a reasonable formula that can attain the objective and at the same time ensure Iraq's legitimate rights and also safeguard its sovereignty and security.

'Aziz added: As for this issue, we would like to explain some of the points that reflect an extremist approach in interpreting paragraph 2 of Article 9 of Resolution 687, which determines the implementation mechanism for Article 8. This approach only embraces destruction, whereas this article sanctions the transformation of this equipment into peaceful equipment. The overwhelming majority of the equipment and machines in question are general purpose in nature. Modifying this equipment *and machines for special purposes can be done* when some molds, special tools, and braces are mounted on them. This is something known to everyone who works in industry. Then why is it not deemed sufficient to destroy these accessories to ensure that the machines and equipment in question are not used to manufacture banned equipment? Why this determination to completely destroy machines and equipment? How are we to understand, for example, the determination to destroy an entire computer unit for the sole reason that this computer unit was used to calculate the performance of a rocket engine? Why is it not deemed sufficient to erase the diskette program or to destroy the diskette itself? How are we to explain the destruction of ordinary refrigeration equipment which was used to cool a chamber in which missile engines were stored? Likewise, how are we to understand the request to destroy buildings for the sole reason that they housed machines which were used to produce the body of the missile tank? How are we to understand the demand that equipment which was used to produce dental fillings, substitutes for damaged bones, and devices for checking communications and power grids should be destroyed?

In order to deal with these issues, our delegation proposes that the special committee prepare a complete and final list of all the equipment that will be destroyed or turned into [words indistinct]. It can do that easily [words indistinct] the equipment and devices that are the subject of Resolution 687 and to present this list to the Security Council in the presence of Iraqi representatives, who will explain our views on the possibility or impossibility of this equipment being used for banned purposes. If the Council, in its current structure, cannot accomplish this, specialized experts can act for each of the Council's member states to verify the data and information offered by the special committee and Iraq's representatives. Thus, decisions can be made regarding the objective bases concerning the goals defined by Resolution 687.

In this way these goals can be achieved without doubts, accusations, and tense atmospheres and also without unjust political purposes.

The Security Council has entrusted the special committee with duties that should have a technical nature, and the Council has no right to abandon its authority to make the final decision on matters of a political and legal nature concerning the fate of a free nation and the fate of property which is dear to it and which can be used to attain its prosperity. Keeping things vague and unresolved and giving the special committee absolute authority [words indistinct] the resolutions that link the

Iraqi people's fate and property as well as the Iraqi people's fate, sovereignty, and security [words indistinct].

Tariq 'Aziz continued: What is the Security Council's position on the issue of the economic blockade?

Despite what was achieved concerning the implementation of Resolution 687, *the Council did not at all change* its stand on the blockade, and it also did not implement the UN Charter and international laws on civilians.

Thirteen months after the cease-fire was reached in implementation of Resolution 660, in light of which the economic blockade was imposed, the Iraqi people remain deprived of normal lives and also are prevented from importing all their humanitarian needs. Theoretically they were allowed to import food and medicine, but Iraq's assets abroad are frozen. Despite the Security Council's resolutions authorizing these states to decide this issue, most of them, especially the Security Council member states, have not released these assets. Iraq is also not allowed to export any goods to buy food and medicine and other humanitarian needs.

Iraq, which has made a prominent contribution to human [word indistinct] and the landmarks of whose great civilization fill the museums of London, Paris, Berlin, and New York, and these people—from whose ranks the Prophet Abraham came, who invented writing, and who established the first legal code in the world—are today afflicted by injustice and repression. For how long will these Iraqi people endure this? For how long will humanity endure this? These Iraqi people are prevented from importing chlorine to purify drinking water. The factory that produces chlorine is targeted for destruction. Iraq is also prevented from importing pesticides to combat diseases which destroy a big part of its food, on the pretext that they are chemicals which could be used in weapons manufacturing. It is also prevented from manufacturing them. In fact, the sanctions committee has prevented Iraq from importing soap and detergents. The Iraqi people, who have produced philosophers, poets, and writers for 6,000 years and who established the first university in the world, are today prevented from importing educational materials, including paper for printing school textbooks and books for schoolboys.

Here I quote what Prince Saidruddin Aga Khan, the former executive representative of the UN secretary general, said at a news conference he held at the United Nations on 22 July 1991 following a visit to Baghdad from 29 June to 13 July 1991. He said: "The thing which cannot be denied is that the Iraqi people are currently being punished by the blockade. This was not the objective of the United Nations and its resolutions."

Tariq 'Aziz stated that the question being repeated by 18 million Iraqis, as well as by millions of honest and free men in the world, is for how long will this unjust blockade continue to be imposed on Iraq? How long will the sanctions committee continue to be given free and arbitrary powers to determine the needs of the Iraqi people? How can the veto right which was given to five member states when the United Nations was established be interpreted as being used to decide whether or not the Iraqi people are allowed to import soap, book paper, or children's toys?

Gentlemen, you are asking Iraq to implement and to comply with [words indistinct] Iraq one month after another. I have presented you with a factual and comprehensive review of what has been accomplished. We have expressed our readiness to cooperate on sound bases [word indistinct] the principles of the Charter and the rules of justice and fairness. So, what has the Council implemented with regard to its commitments toward the Iraqi people? The answer is: nothing at all. Even when the Council issued a resolution allowing Iraq, from a formal and theoretical aspect, to export a small quantity of its oil to buy food and medicine, thousands of conditions were included in this resolution and the plan to implement it. All of these conditions encroach on its sovereignty and security. These conditions mean flagrant interference in its internal affairs and implicate suspect political objectives, and other conditions, which practically prevent Iraq from securing food and medicine.

We call on the Council to change its stand and to adopt an objective and fair stand. We have expressed our readiness to cooperate with good intentions. The Security Council is called upon to display its readiness to fulfill its commitments toward the people of Iraq and to resort to good intentions in dealing with Iraq.

'Aziz Addresses Press

JN1103222792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2145 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] United Nations, 11 Mar (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has affirmed that Iraq presented to the Security Council a factual statement on its implementation of its commitments concerning the Council's resolutions. Speaking to a large number of reporters following the first session of the UN Security Council today, 'Aziz added that Iraq frankly explained the suffering of the Iraqi people, their right to normal lives, and their legitimate right to lifting the unjust embargo.

'Aziz said: I have explained to the Security Council that if the problem is with implementing Resolution 687, Iraq has no problem with that because it is prepared to cooperate to facilitate the attainment of this objective. I also expressed concern to the Council about the tendentious political objectives behind the threats and practices of a number of circles which intend to implement the resolution's provisions in a political manner that has not been stipulated in UN resolutions.

'Aziz added that some Council members frankly announced that they wanted to topple the current Iraqi government. This is a political attitude that is in harmony with their positions at the Security Council.

'Aziz asserted that the Security Council is morally and legally committed to a sharply defined division between the political objectives of some states and the general aims of some states. [sentence as received]

'Aziz said: I explained to the president and members of the Security Council that the Iraqi delegation and I are prepared to answer all questions connected with the outstanding problems in order to explain the facts about implementing Resolution 687 and other resolutions.

'Aziz added: I hope that the Council will give us an opportunity to present all these issues and problems. We are prepared to stay here as long as it takes to completely clarify the picture to the Security Council and the international community.

Security Council Postpones Session

JN1203080092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Excerpt] New York, the United Nations, 12 Mar (INA)—The UN Security Council postponed until today, Thursday, the resumption of its extraordinary session on Iraq which is being attended by an Iraqi delegation headed by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Mr. 'Aziz spoke to the Council for the first time Wednesday and called for a end to the blockade against Iraq, which has been in force for 20 months. He emphasized that Iraq has complied with all the Security Council resolutions that do not affect its sovereignty. [passage omitted]

Turkey Given Protest Over Airspace Violations

JN1203063692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Iraq yesterday protested the repeated flagrant violations of its sovereignty and territorial integrity by Turkish aircraft on 9 March. A Foreign Ministry spokesman told INA that the ministry sent a protest memorandum to the Turkish Foreign Ministry. It was yesterday delivered by the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Ankara. The memorandum protests repeated flagrant violations of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity by Turkish aircraft on 9 March.

The memorandum says that the continuing violations constitute not only a serious threat to the good-neighbor and cooperation relations between the peoples of the two Muslim neighboring countries, but also a flagrant violation of the UN Charter, international law, and the 1926 Iraqi-Turkish border treaty.

The memorandum asks the concerned Turkish authorities to stop these violations to preserve the good-neighbor relations and to boost current efforts aimed at promoting cooperation in all fields.

Shipment of Scud Missiles to Syria Criticized

Levi Takes 'Serious View'

TA1203093392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has said that Israel takes a serious view of the Scud shipment from North Korea to Syria. Our correspondent Jack Katzenell reports that Levi told U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Bolton that Israel cannot stomach the fact that Syria is participating in the peace process and, at the same time, going out of its way to acquire long-range missiles, develop chemical weapons, and encourage terror from Lebanon.

Meets With U.S. Official

TA1203120692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister David Levi said today that Syria cannot encourage terrorism and pursue a massive arms buildup while engaged in peace negotiations. He told visiting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Bolton there would have been no need to play cat-and-mouse with the North Korean ships if the West had taken a tough line with Syria from the outset. Jack Katzenell reports:

Foreign Minister Levi voiced deep concern over Syria's arms buildup and its production of chemical weapons and the affair of the ships bringing the North Korean Scud missiles. Syria threatens to go to war if there is any delay in the peace process, Levi says; she encourages the Palestinians and Jordanians to take a more extremist line; she allows the Iranian Revolutionary Guards to train the Hizballah in Lebanon; yet the international community gives her aid and does not demand that she change her policy.

Levi was referring to a recent decision by the Paris club to grant aid to Syria and to the $2 billion given to Syria in return for her symbolic participation in the Gulf war coalition.

Richard Bolton promised to convey Levi's comments to Secretary of State Baker. Bolton is responsible for American's activities in international organizations, such as the United Nations, and his meeting with Levi was attended by Israel's UN Ambassador Yoram Aridor. I asked Aridor about the United Nations' current discussions with Tariq 'Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister. Aridor feels cautious optimism about the prospects of disarming Saddam Husayn of his nuclear weapons. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 12 March carries a related report. In a recorded passage, Levi says: "I transmitted a message to the secretary of state that responsibility, ties, and interests call for renewed efforts to strengthen Israeli-U.S. ties, to eliminate misunderstandings, to lower tensions, and, more than anything else, to continue cooperation based on mutual interests."]

Arens To Broach Issue With Cheney

TA1203093792 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Mar 92 pp 1, 13

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] "Syria's procurement of sophisticated weapons systems is a source of concern to us, and I will raise this issue during my conversation with U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney next week," Defense Minister Moshe Arens told YEDI'OT AHARONOT last night before leaving for the United States.

The defense minister will stay in the United States for a week as the guest of the United Jewish Appeal. He will meet with Cheney next Monday [16 March].

Commenting on the reports about the shipment of North Korean Scud-C missiles to Iran and Syria, the defense minister said: "This issue has been troubling us, and, for the past several months, we have been in contact with various countries to curb the export of sophisticated weapons to the Middle East."

One of the main issues Arens will raise in his talks in the United States will be the military cooperation between the two countries. According to him, "strategic cooperation was not and is not at all affected by the developments in the political process." [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 12 March carries a report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Eytan Rabin on page A2 adding that "Arens is accompanied by his assistant Salay Meridor; media adviser Dani Nave; and Colonel Ze'ev Hefetz, his aide-de-camp."]

Ben-Elisar on U.S. 'Impotence'

TA1203103192 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Mar 92 p A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] "The fact that a ship carrying Scuds from North Korea evaded U.S. Navy surveillance should be viewed very seriously. If the Americans cannot prevent the supply of missiles to Iran and Syria, what can they do about Iraq? It is a manifestation of their impotence, which is definitely worrisome." That statement was made last night by Knesset Member Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, in an interview with HA'ARETZ.

On the other hand, Ben-Elisar said, Israel can only trust itself and must see to it that missiles do not strike its territory again.

Israel is following with concern the supply of Scud missiles to Iran and Syria and is apprehensive about

possible cooperation between the two countries that could affect the situation in Lebanon and increase Hizballah's terrorist attacks.

'Disgraceful U.S. Failure' Seen

TA1203100392 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Mar 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Hide-and-Seek in the Gulf"]

[Text] The ease with which the North Korean Scud cargo ship slipped through the chain of U.S. Navy vessels on the edges of the Persian Gulf embarrassed the administration. Its spokesmen made a significant effort yesterday to argue that this was not a disgraceful U.S. failure.

Nevertheless, if this was not a failure caused by negligence, was the negligence planned ahead of time?

U.S. spokesmen admitted that the U.S. vessels had no legal authority to intercept the Scud ship and confiscate its cargo, unless it was destined for Iraq. Because the cargo was destined for Syria or Iran, there was no way to prevent the ship from continuing on its course even if it had been stopped. Under these circumstances, the Americans may have decided that it would be less of a fiasco if the freighter were not stopped at all.

The affair raises worrisome doubts regarding the role of "the policeman of the world" which the United States assumed in the wake of the Gulf war. It no longer matters whether it is an impotent cop (in which case one may well wonder about the quality of its embargo on Iraq) or a dishonest cop, willing to turn a blind eye when a crime is committed.

Either way, it is not good—primarily for us.

'Additional' Korean Vessel En Route to Iran

TA1103193892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that as far as is known an additional Korean vessel is making its way to Iran, but it is not clear what its cargo is. The Korean vessel which docked today at Bandar 'Abbas has still not begun to unload its cargo of missiles. It has now been learned that a Korean vessel which had earlier docked at the port did not carry missiles as had previously been thought.

Efforts To End Egypt Espionage Affair Continue

Israeli Ambassador Comments

TA1003170592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Israel is making every possible effort to bring the investigation of the alleged spies in Egypt to an end, Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Efrayim Dowek stated in an interview with our radio station earlier today. Gil Yerushalmi reports:

[Begin recording] [Yerushalmi] Ambassador Efrayim Dowek has no doubt that David Ovitz and the Misrati family members are not involved in espionage. Describing this as a bizarre affair, Dowek emphasized Israel's efforts to speed up the investigation. He added that the Egyptians will obviously do their utmost to get to the bottom of this affair.

[Dowek] I cannot really predict how this affair will end, but I am sure that the Egyptians will exhaust the investigation and that they will press charges, at least against the Misrati family members, who admitted to using forged papers. We have submitted an official request to release David Ovitz, against whom they seem to have nothing except the fact that he knew the Misratis and had had business dealings with them.

[Yerushalmi] Dowek said that the Egyptians are conducting the investigation in accordance with international protocol and noted that Israeli representatives are invited to attend all the sessions at which the suspects are remanded in custody. He noted that according to information that he possesses Fa'iqah Misrati did not incriminate David Ovitz in her testimony.

[Dowek] Fa'iqah Misrati says that she knows David Ovitz well, and she also says she is a spy. She claims that he knew her alleged operators, but she is not making a direct accusation. In other words, she is not denying it flat out; she is just saying that David Ovitz is not at all connected to the espionage business. She made an unequivocal statement to this effect in the presence of the Israeli consul. [end recording]

Egyptian Ambassador Comments

TA1203121192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni today expressed the hope that the interrogation of the detained Israelis in Egypt would end soon. Basyuni denied to our political correspondent that there is an anti-Semitic tone to the Egyptian media's treatment of the affair.

[Begin Basyuni recording in English] Look, I would like to tell you that this incident is....[changes thought] You can't consider it is anti-Israeli. It is, you know, there is some suspicion about some people, if they are Israeli or if they are British. [end recording]

[Correspondent translates the above and continues] If no charges are presented against the Israelis, then of course we will release them immediately, the ambassador said.

Egypt Asks To Reopen Mortgage Bank in Territories

TA1003185492 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 9 Mar 92 pp 1, 15

[Excerpt] It has been learned that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has sent a memorandum to the Israeli Government asking it to carry out speedily the measures for reopening the five branches of the Arab Mortgage Bank in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jericho, Nabulus, and Gaza, which had stopped their operations in the wake of the 1967 war.

It has also been learned that the Israeli Foreign Ministry has welcomed the Egyptian request, especially since Egypt showed a similar desire in the eighties. [passage omitted]

Agreement Signed on Charter Flights to PRC

TA1103202092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Charter flights will begin on 1 June between the PRC and Israel. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that an agreement on that was signed in Beijing a few days ago between the heads of the civil aviation authorities of both countries based on agreements reached during Foreign Minister David Levi's visit to the PRC. The flights will be operated by El Al prior to the inauguration of a regular air route by the company. A delegation representing Air China, the PRC's national airline, will visit Israel in April.

EC Participation in Multilateral Talks Opposed

TA0803100292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Mar 92 p A8

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Three EC ministers of the troika states, led by the Spanish foreign minister, will arrive in Israel in two weeks as part of a Middle East tour. The three will visit Egypt first, and will arrive in Israel via the Gaza Strip. From here they will travel to Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

On the agenda is the question of an EC representative's participation in the multilateral talks on disarmament and regional security, due to open in Washington in two months. Based on a Defense Ministry recommendation, and against the opinion of Foreign Ministry officials, Israel has announced that it opposes the participation of the EC in those talks due to EC political stands.

Political sources in Jerusalem have stressed that Europe is one of the major arms suppliers for the Arab countries, which will make it difficult to reach an agreement on arms reduction without an EC presence in the committee.

Foreign Minister David Levi is scheduled to hold meetings with EC foreign ministers in May in Brussels. They will discuss the peace process and earlier promises regarding Israel's incorporation in the EC. So far, the EC has offered Israel no economic aid, and the German Government has stopped all discussions of aid for immigrant absorption.

A German spokesman told HA'ARETZ that his government has no idea of where the Israeli Government got information about $5 billion of German aid.

A Japanese survey delegation arrived in Israel over the weekend to prepare for the multilateral talks. The Japanese are heading the committee on environmental issues. The delegation will tour Elat, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, and will examine options for joint ecological projects. They will meet Israeli officials and Palestinian figures, including Faysal al-Husayni.

Last week, it was decided to postpone the first session of the committee on refugee affairs by a week. The committee will convene on 13 May in Ottawa. Jerusalem hopes that the United States will keep its promise that the Palestinian delegation will not include representatives of the Palestinian diaspora.

Palestinian sources claim, on the other hand, that the Americans promised them that Palestinian notables from outside the territories will be allowed a representation.

EC Linking Trade, Peace Progress

TA1103114292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Mar 92 p A3

["Exclusive" report from Brussels by Judy Maltz]

[Text] "No progress in improving the terms of the current trade agreement between Israel and the EC is to be expected before the peace process really moves forward," a senior EC Commission official said in a briefing to Israeli correspondents yesterday.

"At present you should expect no candy from the EC," said the official, who wished to remain anonymous.

For several years, Israel has been trying to improve the terms of its free trade agreements with the EC, signed in 1975, in mainly two fields: increasing quotas of fruits and vegetables—mainly citrus fruits—and freer introduction of advanced technology products to the EC market. A year ago, after the Gulf war, EC representatives expressed willingness to consider Israel's demands, but the mood has changed since then, the senior official said.

"Today, I see no willingness in the EC to meet Israel's requests. The ball is now in your court," the official said. Israeli sources believe that if the current trade agreements are not adjusted, Israel stands to lose its relative advantage in the EC.

Foreign Minister David Levi is scheduled to arrive in Brussels in May to attend the meeting of the European Council of Ministers. It is believed that at this meeting

Levi will request a discussion on improving the terms of Israel's trade agreements with the EC.

The official painted a bleak picture of the Israeli economy. He said: "Your region is not interesting for European investors because it entails political risks. Thailand and East European countries seem far more attractive."

The EC Commission has already notified Israel that participation in the new European Economic Area will be made conditional on progress in the peace process, but this was the first time that a senior EC official publicly admitted that there is a linkage between political issues and economic and technical ones.

'Mistakes Made' in 20 Feb Lebanon Operation

TA1203100692 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Mar 92 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Faults were found in the operations of the Israeli troops who crossed the border of the security zone in south Lebanon on 20 February and entered the villages of Yatar and Qabrikha to stop Hizballah from firing katyushas.

A final report on the operation—which resulted in the death of two soldiers, a major and a sergeant—was presented to Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of staff; Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command; and senior officers in the Paratroopers Corps. The chief of staff pointed out that the operation had been fraught with mistakes and errors, and he set a deadline for their rectification. Nevertheless, there was no decision to take personal measures against the commanding officers.

Maj. Gen. Mordekhay also said that mistakes had been made. He examined the errors and promised the chief of staff that all of them would be amended. A senior officer in the General Staff said that all the errors and mistakes are being corrected and will continue to be corrected.

At the end of the report, the chief of staff said he believed the katyusha firing had stopped as a result of the Army's actions—including the use of artillery and a ground operation—during the week of shellings against the northern settlements and the security zone. Last week the chief of staff, commenting the ground operation, stated that "it achieved both its immediate technical objectives and its political ones. Nevertheless, just like any other military operation, it must be examined from within to learn every possible lesson from the faults and mistakes that were made."

The debate was preceded by a gathering attended by dozens of officers, who did not criticize the operation.

Shamir—No Room for Compromise on 'Eretz Yisra'el'

TA1203120392 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Report by Galya Marom]

[Excerpt] The annual ceremony commemorating the IDF [Israel Defense Force] soldiers whose burial sites are unknown was held on Mount Herzl today. The memorial candle was lit by Na'omi Mizrahi, the widow of the late Ya'aqov Mizrahi, who was killed in the Sinai campaign. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said at the ceremony that security and peace are intertwined and that in order to achieve security, we must continue to make progress towards peace. Shamir added that there is no room for compromise on Eretz Yisra'el in the negotiations.

[Begin Shamir recording] We are determined with regard to Israel's security and our rights to Eretz Yisra'el. There are no compromises on these matters, and nobody can expect such compromises. We must stand firm on every single aspect of our security and our rights. At the same time, we are determined to continue to make progress in the peace process. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Ramiyah Residents Ordered To 'Evacuate Land'

TA1103120092 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Mar 92 p 3

[Report by Muhammad Khalayla]

[Excerpt] This year, the Arab sector will mark Land Day on 30 March without strikes or demonstrations, the Committee for the Defense of Arab Lands decided last week. The committee decided to hold a nationwide rally in the Galilee village of Dayr Hanna.

The committee called on local committees to organize public activities to mark Land Day, noting sympathy with the residents of Ramiyah near Karmi'el, whose Supreme Court appeal was rejected and who were ordered by the court to evacuate the land, upon the request of Israel Lands Administration, to clear it for the construction of a new neighborhood for immigrants.

The other central motif will note the opposition to Minister Ari'el Sharon's seven-star plan which, according to the committee, aims at seizing, confiscating, and expropriating Arab lands and setting up a chain [of Jewish settlements along the Green Line] that would suffocate the Arab settlements in the Galilee and the Triangle. [passage omitted]

Committee To Run Gaza Municipality Formed

TA1103195492 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Senior Gaza personalities have ended their consultations with the aim of forming a committee to run the affairs of Gaza municipality. Our correspondent 'Abd-al-Wahhab Zahdah reports that this committee will

be headed by attorney Fayiz Abu- Rahmah and will include Engineer Samir al-Tarazi, Dr. Akram Matar, businessman Tahsin al-Shawwa, and Professor Badri Yasin, brother of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin [founder of Hamas in the occupied territories].

Our correspondent expects that the formation of this committee will be announced officially within the next two weeks.

Arens Meets Ramallah Chamber of Commerce Members

TA1103192592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens met today in Jerusalem with recently elected members of the Ramallah chamber of commerce. The meeting was attended by Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of activities in the territories, and Brigadier General Gadi Zohar, head of the Civil Administration. During this meeting the defense minister expressed his regret over the recent escalation of violent acts in the Ramallah region, which obligates the security agencies to adopt the necessary means and measures. The minister asked the chamber of commerce members to endeavor toward putting an end to these acts, emphasizing that if such acts are reduced he will take the necessary steps to restore life in the Ramallah and al-Birah region to normal.

Hamas Seen Supplanting PLO in Territories

TA1103125592 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Mar 92 p 11

[Article by Pinhas 'Inbari: "The Successor Breathing Down the PLO's Neck"]

[Excerpts] Paradoxically enough, the limited democratization process that the Arab world underwent enabled Islamic fundamentalism to demonstrate its power. It resumed a defensive position after the Arab world decided to curb democratization somewhat. In Jordan, the Government made it clear to the Muslim Brotherhood that the parliament they control will be dissolved if they disrupt the peace policy. In Algeria, the army nipped the free election process in the bud. In Jordan, again, even though the Islamic Movement members managed to score victories in the elections for trade unions, politically they are unable to stop the Hashemite locomotive, which is racing toward peace with Israel.

Now, of all times, the confrontation between Israel and Islamic fundamentalism is becoming stronger. There is more than one reason for this, but fundamentally it is because the conflict over Eretz Yisra'el is becoming truly religious in nature. While the national Palestinian movements entered the peace process with Israel at one level of involvement or another, only the religious movements were left to carry on the war. The fear among the fundamentalists is growing that Israel's ultimate goal is to deny Islam status on Temple Mount. One regretfully notes that the present Israeli Government is doing very little to dissipate those fears, and that is an understatement.

Fundamentalist behavior in the territories is fraught with emotions, and individual Arabs have been known to rise in the morning, feel they identify with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] or the Islamic Jihad, take a knife, and set out to stab Jews. Nevertheless, Islamic activity in the territories is basically orderly and well-calculated, and closely tied to that of the mother movements across the border: the pro-Saudi Muslim Brotherhood and the pro-Iranian Hizballah. The new heights of confrontation are manifest—to name one way—in the increase in its violent, militant nature among Israeli Arabs as well as in the territories.

The organization that represents Hizballah in the Palestinian arena is the Islamic Jihad, and we have already studied the complex circumstances leading to an escalation in its activity.

The organization that represents the pro-Saudi camp is Hamas, which is no less radical than the Islamic Jihad, but which is completely different in its method of operation and the nature of its relationship with the sages of the great mosques in Mecca and Medina.

While the Islamic Jihad does not engage in any political activity, but solely in jihad, Hamas, besides its belligerent activity, is fully immersed in the internal political quagmire in the territories, and there is almost no election in which it does not participate. The main goal of Hamas is to undermine the PLO's control of politics in the territories. On the eve of the last Palestine National Council convention, Hamas demanded 40 percent of the seats, and it is trying to prove it has not just invented this figure. Hamas generally manages to receive 40 percent in elections for the various institutions, but last week the Islamic list in Ramallah scored an unprecedented achievement: All its candidates entered the Chamber of Commerce. The sole candidate on the pro-PLO national list entered the Chamber only because the Civil Administration disqualified one of the Islamic List's candidates due to his security record. This success was one in a series of earlier successes: Hamas won all the seats in the students' associations in the two Hebron universities, in the PLO-controlled polytechnic school, and in Jerusalem area colleges and educational institutes.

The defeat of the PLO supporters in Ramallah is serious from every viewpoint: Ramallah is a Christian town, and even if one takes into account the large number of Muslim merchants—since merchants in the larger, Muslim town of al-Birah belong to the Ramallah Chamber—many Christian merchants still voted for Hamas! That can be explained only as a vote of protest against the PLO. The large amount of money the PLO spent to acquire power was to no avail; that money, it seems, had the opposite effect. Under the title "The National List" one could find candidates who normally fight each other

over the peace process: the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, on one end; 'Arafat's Fatah, on the other extreme; and middle-of-the road parties, such as the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in the center. Still, those united forces failed in the battle against Hamas in Ramallah. Moreover, the elections hurt the Palestinian delegation's power base. The Palestinian delegation is basically composed of activists from the region of Ramallah, Bi'r Zayt, and East Jerusalem. That region is known, or, to be more precise now, was known as the stronghold of the national forces and the left-wing parties.

The question is: If Hamas is intent only on the Jihad, why has it undertaken political struggles intended to strengthen its political power? Why does it not behave like the Islamic Jihad and devote itself to the holy war, without wasting energy on unimportant issues?

The answer is inherent in the very question: That is the difference between Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. Hamas is preparing to succeed the PLO as a representative of the Palestinians in the next stage of the political process, after—so it hopes—the PLO collapses. In the meantime, it is building its political strength in election campaigns in the territories. Saudi Arabia has difficulty forgiving 'Arafat for his role in the Kuwaiti crisis, and Hamas is the key punitive tool. The radical alternative that Hamas presents to the "compromising" PLO is intended to erode the PLO's power. There is no other explanation for the difference between the vigorous political activity by Hamas in the territories and the absolute lack of interest shown by the Islamic Jihad.

This does not mean that Hamas is a single body and that it is an obedient servant of Saudi Arabia. Hamas is internally divided and is made up of numerous, diversified groups. Basically, Hamas' activity is in the Saudi framework, but it transpires that there are rather difficult internal arguments within Saudi Arabia itself, and upon comparison, one can identify the same elements of the internal argument which plague Saudi Arabia in Hamas as well. An important, perhaps a key branch of this movement belongs to the internal opposition. The Saudis' aim is to undermine 'Arafat's leadership within the PLO. On the one hand, they support the secular leadership in the territories, as it emerged in the Palestinian delegation, in the hope that forces from this delegation, together with forces opposed to 'Arafat in Fatah itself, will rise as a new leadership for the PLO. On the other hand, the Saudis are preparing Hamas for the day on which it will join the peace process, perhaps together with "the new PLO." It is not clear, however, how willingly all of the Hamas components will jump on the negotiations bandwagon with Israel. They may show categorical opposition all the way, in conjunction with opposition elements inside Saudi Arabia that, as is the case in Iran, are part of the religious establishment. [passage omitted]

The Ramallah chamber of commerce was not the first one overtaken by Hamas. Hebron's was first, and it is to be assumed that since it was elected it has not caused headaches to the Israeli authorities. It does not boycott the Civil Administration and behaves in a purely pragmatic manner and not in the unruly manner promoted by Hamas' leaflets.

Does this difference reflect different tactics only, or does it contain a message for the future? After stabilizing its status in the territories, will Hamas join the peace process in the future indeed? Hebron's chamber of commerce has proven that not every Hamas component is like the movement's leaflets or military branch people. A lot depends on how Israel conducts itself, how it acts to lessen religious tensions, and no less important, how the internal struggle within Saudi Arabia, Hamas' patron, ends.

Unrest, Casualties in Territories Reported

'Dozens' Arrested in Janin Operation

TA1203122592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Report by Mark Weiss]

[Text] Security forces have arrested dozens of residents in the Janin area over the last few days. Soldiers, border police, and security forces were involved in the special operation. Amongst those arrested are residents suspected of terror activity, residents suspected of torturing and killing local Arabs that cooperated with the authorities, and members of terror cells that fired at Israeli Army units. Security forces said about 10 of the people arrested were members of the Fatah Black Panther group.

Five wanted residents were captured last night in the Janin area village of 'Arrabah, including the leader of the Red Eagle terror cell and members of the Fatah Black Panther cell.

Close to midnight last night security forces shot and killed a wanted resident in the Janin refugee camp. Nineteen-year-old Khalid Muhammad Fahmawi, a Black Panther member, pointed a loaded pistol at soldiers who shot him in the hand [as heard]. He was seriously wounded and taken to a local clinic, where he died from his wounds.

A hand grenade was thrown this morning at a police car at the southern exit from the town of Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip. The grenade did not explode. Police identified two youths who had forced two people driving in a car to stop and to hand the vehicle over to them. Police pursued the two, and when they caught up with the abducted car the youths tried to make off on foot. In the course of that chase, one of the youths threw the grenade, which rolled under the police car but did not explode. An Army unit called in continued the chase, and subsequently made an arrest. The whole incident is being investigated by the Army.

Three Wounded in Silwan Shooting

TA1203054492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] In the territories, two residents were killed by fellow Arabs last night. In the East Jerusalem village of Silwan, three residents were shot and wounded during an argument over allegations of cooperation with the authorities. Mark Weiss reports:

In the al-Nusayrat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, 25-year-old Nasir Shurbaji was last night shot and stabbed to death by masked men. His body was taken to al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza City, and the Army and police are investigating the incident.

In Baqah village near Tulkarm, a woman was shot dead last night. Military sources say a man came to her door and called her by name to open it. When she did so, he shot her. The woman's body was taken to the Abu-Kabir Forensic Institute. The Army placed a curfew on the village and launched an investigation together with Samarian police.

Three residents of the East Jerusalem village of Silwan were injured last night, after an argument thought to be over accusations that some residents were cooperating with the authorities. A fight developed and a number of shots were fired. Two of the injured were taken to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital and a third person to East Jerusalem's al-Maqasid Hospital.

The Nabulus military court has handed down life sentences plus five years to two local residents. The two were found guilty of kidnapping a fellow Arab, torturing him, and murdering him about 18 months ago. They had accused him of cooperating with the authorities.

A witness, testifying yesterday in a military court in Janin, pulled a gun during the proceedings and aimed it at two Qabatiyah residents accused of killing a soldier. Soldiers in the courtroom overpowered the man and disarmed him. The witness was in the vehicle allegedly attacked by the accused, in which the soldier Yoram Kohen was killed.

Pro-Fatah Figures Flee; Hamas Revenge Feared

TA1103195792 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Our correspondent Dani Levi has learned from informed sources in the Gaza Strip that a number of prominent pro-Fatah figures in the Rafah region recently left their homes for other areas. They did this out of fear of retaliation by the Islamic Movement in the wake of the movement's accusation that the recent killing of the masked youth Khalid Muhammad Sulayman Qishta by an Israeli Defense Force [IDF] unit was the result of collaboration between Fatah members and IDF authorities.

IDF To Free 300 Qezi'ot Inmates for Ramadan

TA1003111592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Some 300 people will be released from Qezi'ot detention center this week, two months before their time is up, as a gesture for Ramadan. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that there are 5,000 detainees in Qezi'ot; 70 percent belong to Fatah, and only 11 percent are members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

180 Gazans Released 11 Mar

TA1103184792 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Authorities today released from Qezi'ot detention center in the Negev 180 Gaza Strip detainees who had served the major part of their sentence. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that three buses transferred the detainees from Qezi'ot to the Nahal 'Oz roadblock junction, where their relatives were waiting for them, and they were set free there. It is expected that another batch of detainees, comprising some 100 persons, will be released tomorrow.

These detainees were set free on the basis of a decision by Major General Matan Vilna'i, commander of the Southern Command, to release 300 Gaza Strip detainees as a goodwill gesture on occasion of the blessed month of Ramadan.

Confederation With Palestinians Planned

JN1203101492 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 12 Mar 92 p 1

["Exclusive"]

[Text] Amman—AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned that following the past few weeks of Jordanian-Palestinian meetings, it has become certain that practical and executive steps will be taken to start the implementation of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation within the next few weeks.

AKHBAR AL-USBU' has also learned that this time the initiative to set up a confederation came from the Jordanian side, which kept asking the Palestinian side to wait for appropriate circumstances when it presented an integrated confederation document to the government of Tahir al-Masri.

Informed sources told AKHBAR AL-USBU' that reorganizing the Jordanian-Palestinian house along new lines and establishing the pillars of future relations will necessitate the adoption of large-scale steps and changes. The confederation will seek to unite the Jordanian-Palestinian stance at all levels and foil Israeli maneuvers to legitimize occupation of Palestinian soil through an autonomy plan that is devoid of any substance. The confederation will also put the ball in the Jordanian court—the legal and legitimate party as cited in the UN Security Council resolutions which stipulate Israel's withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967.

A Palestinian source told AKHBAR AL-USBU' that the Palestinian leadership is pleased with this Jordanian policy, which confirms Jordan's eagerness to uphold the Palestinian people's rights. The source added that the confederation will bolster cooperation and coordination among brothers, and described Jordanian-Palestinian unity as inseparable.

Report on Plan To Unite Iraq, Jordan Denied

PM1103164692 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 9 Mar 92 p 1

[Wafa' 'Amr report: "Jordan Denies Reports of Post-Saddam Confederation With Iraq"]

[Excerpts] Amman, London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—King Husayn of Jordan yesterday started his Western tour during which he will visit the United States where he will meet with President George Bush on Thursday for the first time since the second Gulf war broke out. He will also visit Iceland, Canada, France, and Germany. [passage omitted]

The British weekly THE OBSERVER yesterday exploded a political bombshell when it said in a front-page report that one of the issues which the Jordanian king will discuss in Washington is the establishment of a Hashemite confederation in Iraq and Jordan after the present regime in Baghdad has been toppled. But Jordanian sources have strongly denied the report and said that it was unfounded.

A former Jordanian prime minister told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that THE OBSERVER's story is unrealistic and that U.S. organs may have leaked it with the aim of driving a wedge between Jordan and Iraq. But other officials said that U.S. circles have been discussing a plan in that regard for some time.

One Jordanian official said: "They are half rumors, half illusion." The official added: "It is embarrassing for a newspaper such as that to publish such an incredible story without inquiring about the accuracy of its information." [passage omitted]

Compulsory Military Service Law May Change

JN1203094192 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Mar 92 pp 1, 19

[By Tariq al-Mumani]

[Excerpt] Deputy Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi has denied that the government's inclination toward suspending the compulsory military service law is linked to the peace process, to the World Bank, or to the Dakar conference resolutions.

He was responding to remarks made by deputies during a discussion yesterday morning of unemployment and compulsory military service. The House of Representatives session was chaired by Speaker 'Abd-al- Latif 'Arabiyat and attended by the ministers; it lasted for about five hours. [passage omitted]

Delegation Leader Stays in U.S. To Discuss Ties

NC1203103192 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Excerpts] The Lebanese delegation to the Arab-Israeli bilateral peace talks has returned to Beirut, but its chairman, Suhayl Shammas, has remained in Washington.

Informed diplomatic sources say that Foreign Ministry Secretary General Suhayl Shammas stayed behind in Washington with the aim of strengthening Lebanese-U.S. relations. The sources explained that Shammas, known as a dynamic individual, will try to use his presence in Washington to concentrate on the following:

1. He will try to secure the return of the full U.S. diplomatic team to the U.S. Embassy in 'Awkar following information received by high-ranking officials that Ambassador Ryan Crocker will not return to Beirut for the time being. The U.S. Administration has asked Crocker to stay in the United States for the time being in view of the unstable Lebanese security situation, which requires the use of maximum precautions following the assassination of Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi. The U.S. Administration has asked the families of U.S. diplomats and administrative personnel in Beirut to leave Lebanon immediately.

The sources said that Lebanon desperately needs an effective U.S. Embassy in Beirut during this crucial juncture, following the nation's approval of the peace conference and its participation in the bilateral talks with Israel.

2. Part of Shammas' mission is connected with Lebanon's stand on the coming round of talks, which the United States wants to hold in the second half of April. There is also talk that the venue will be moved from Washington to Europe or the Middle East.

The sources said that Lebanon's view on this subject is clear. Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has made several statements that Lebanon wants Washington to remain the venue of the talks. In addition, he has said that Lebanon supports the proposal to postpone the upcoming round of talks until after the Israeli elections. [passage omitted]

3. Shammas will try to use his personal relationships to free up U.S. aid to Lebanon, thereby ending Washington's policy of blocking the aid. This is a policy Washington has pursued since the abolition of the 17 May 1983 [Lebanese-Israeli] agreement. The sources said that Shammas' activity on this level comes amid Lebanon's current financial and economic crisis, and at a time when humanitarian aid has even been withheld for political considerations.

The sources added that Shammas' mission on this level will focus on the following:

A. The release of weapons and equipment purchased during the old regime for the Lebanese Army.

B. The release of aid for development and relief, estimated at millions of dollars.

C. U.S. participation in the process of reconstruction and development. [passage omitted]

Nasrallah on U.S. Envoy's Absence, Hostages

NC1203074892 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah discussed the report that U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Ryan Crocker might not return to Beirut at his government's request. The U.S. Government apparently fears that a vengeful act in response to the martyrdom of 'Abbas al-Musawi, the standard bearer of the resistance fighters, may take place. On the subject, Nasrallah said: We still believe that the best response to the martyrdom of 'Allamah al-Musawi is to escalate the resistance against the occupation. The United States is free to take any precautionary measures it sees fit, he said, adding: It is natural for the United States to resort to these precautions if it feels that it was an accomplice in this crime.

In a press interview, Nasrallah said: Hizballah is still unable to intervene to secure the release of the two German hostages.

Hizballah Accuses Israel of Using Human Shields

NC1203075992 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Excerpts] The Islamic Resistance has dealt a harsh blow to the Zionist enemy and its agents. The Martyr Hasan al-Zayn and Asadallah al-Zayn Group of the Islamic Resistance attacked a Lahd post in Tallusah yesterday morning, killing or wounding its occupants. Our heroes returned safely to base.

At midday yesterday while an enemy patrol was searching the area, the Martyr Husayn Mansur Group detonated an explosive device, killing a Zionist officer and wounding other enemy personnel. [passage omitted]

The Zionist enemy's fear of Islamic Resistance operations have prompted it to use local inhabitants as human shields. The enemy has tied young men and veiled girls to tanks to deter attacks against its soldiers. This act is a violation of all international laws and norms.

Hostage Holders Said Ready To Accept Pledge

PM1103113292 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Mar 92 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Kidnappers of Two Germans Willing To Respond to Iranian Efforts"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Within the framework of resolving the hostage issue, an Iranian envoy has been visiting Beirut over the past few days and has met with the people maintaining contact with the two German

hostages held in Lebanon, Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner. This, according to sources well-informed about such contacts and mediations. Meanwhile, the wife of Shaykh 'Ubayd has said that "the United Nations and those working to resolve the hostage issue must understand that the hostage file will not be closed except by Shaykh 'Ubayd's release." She told AL-HAYAH that the United States and Israel did not keep their promise to release her husband at the start of the Western hostages' release.

With regard to the moves being made to secure the two German hostages' release, the sources said that the Iranian envoy has been informed of the kidnappers' willingness to respond to the Iranian and other efforts. The sources also indicated a willingness to cooperate with, and to open up to, the four-man ministerial committee formed by the Lebanese Council of Ministers last Wednesday to follow up efforts to secure the two Germans' release. The same quarters believe that the committee's formation could be useful, because it represents a cover and an umbrella for current moves and mediations, which include a discussion of the position of the two brothers, 'Abbas and Muhammad 'Ali Hammadi, in prison in Germany (the former sentenced to death and the latter to 20 years imprisonment.)

AL-HAYAH has learned that the kidnappers indicated that the ministerial committee is helping in these contacts, and as long as it is a Lebanese Government committee, it is better to secure solutions through it, instead of through UN envoy Giandomenico Picco.

The sources said that "despite the positive willingness expressed by the kidnappers and conveyed by the parties maintaining contact with them, no practical development has occurred in the matter of the two Germans, because the kidnappers are demanding guarantees—albeit not public—regarding the Hammadi brothers."

But the new development that has occurred with regard to the demand for these guarantees is the kidnappers' willingness to accept a pledge from the senior authorities in Iran or Syria—albeit not public—to follow up the issue of the Hammadi brothers' release after the release of Kemptner and Struebig.

The sources quoted the kidnappers as saying that "if it is necessary not to embarrass the German authorities, whose position we understand, we are not requesting anything public. The Lebanese committee can perhaps do something through diplomatic channels. If it fails to achieve anything, then a pledge from the Iranian or the Syrian side would be sufficient. This, because what is needed is an authority to which we can refer later with regard to the Hammadi brothers—an authority that will secure good intentions from the German side."

The sources, which are well-informed about current contacts, emphasized that the Iranian contacts made so far are not official in nature and that the parties in contact with the two Germans' kidnappers believe that a pledge from Iran or Syria regarding the Hammadi brothers' fate is necessary, because the Lebanese ministerial committee might not be able to provide one. But this does not mean that it cannot participate in the contacts.

The same quarters quoted the kidnappers as saying that the insistence that something be done about the Hammadi brothers is due to the belief that, as long as there are serious efforts to close the file, why should it be closed on one side while leaving the other side open? The Hammadi brothers must be dealt with from a humanitarian, not a political, angle.

Afghanistan

Najibollah Meets Departing Russian Ambassador

LD1103235792 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] At the presidential offices this morning, esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, met with His Excellency Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation, whose tour of duty in the Republic of Afghanistan has ended.

Esteemed Najibollah expressed his satisfaction with the efforts of Mr. Pastukhov during his period of service in our country. He decorated him with the Ghazi Amanullah Khan state medal in recognition of his good services in the expansion of friendly relations between Afghanistan and the Russian Federation.

Commentary Advocates National Unity

LD1203103592 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Afghans are a valorous people with a history that goes back more than 5,000 years. The famous conquerors of history have said about the Afghans that, despite their internal differences, when faced with invaders and aliens and when their land and honor are at stake, Afghans act as a single entity; when they do act as one, no power can resist them. Alexander the Great told his mother and tutor of this true and historical fact, and British historians saw it exemplified many times and registered it in the pages of history. In other words, the secret of the existence and salvation of the Afghans is their national unity. We have used our ancient and not so ancient history as proof of this; history and the force of time have once again decreed that Afghans should act as one against potential threats to their independence, territorial integrity, and national honor. Following the wisdom and valor of their ancestors, and learning from the history of those who have gone before, they should understand their national responsibility and reject any kind of selfishness, ambition for power, and divisiveness. [passage omitted]

A group of egocentric people nowadays see their greedy interests in divisiveness, [word indistinct], and propaganda that is hostile to national unity. We believe that the shameful aim of those shortsighted people will not be achieved, and that our wise people, who, particularly during the 13 years of imposed war have acquired much awareness and political understanding, will not be deceived by such childish dealings. It is our resolute mission, however, to state that, when our Muslim and suffering people have eventually crossed the border of war and misery and entered the pastures of peace and prosperity, the acts of these shortsighted people, whether committed knowingly or unknowingly, will definitely be viewed as treason to the unity of the Afghans. These people should not be allowed to muddy the waters at this critical and fateful moment. Playing with the fate and national unity of our land will lead to consequences and shame for all, such as our people faced in the past. This is not the first time we have been faced with the hostile and foolish acts of some self-interested and shortsighted people. In the past our country has witnessed several scenes of anti-national drama and consigned them, along with their players, to the pit of history.

We read in the proud pages of our history that Afghans acted with one heart and joined hands against the armies of Alexander, Genghis Khan, and the British Army and defended their land and national identity to the last breath. This golden memory, which cannot be erased, still exists in the soul and thoughts of every Afghan. Efforts to divide us are usually made at a time when Afghans are close to a victory or an honor. Not long ago, at the time of the declaration of the independence jihad [in 1919], Britain and its agents resorted to this. Now, as after 13 years of imposed war we approach peace and prosperity once again, we see that the same hostile British method is being used in some areas. Attempts are being made to confuse our pure-hearted people and prevent the Afghans from attaining peace and prosperity.

We are fully confident that the valorous Afghans will never listen to any word or deed against their national and historic honor. They only listen to the voice of their homeland, which at the present time is saying that for the salvation of the country all Afghans must join hands. Now that the whole world, headed by the authorities of the United Nations, has embarked on bringing Afghans together to determine a peace policy for their future, it is saddening that we should act against the will of the majority of our people and against world trends. [Words indistinct] those who resort to such talk and deeds have their specific identity and [words indistinct]. No brave Afghan will follow such persons, nor will he become an instrument for their sinister purposes. All Afghans want to behave in such a way as will enable them to hold their heads high in the peaceful future of the country and live proudly.

India

Tibetans Attack PRC Embassy in Delhi

BK1203104992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1021 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] New Delhi, March 12 (AFP)—The Dalai Lama's bureau Thursday condemned a firebomb attack on the Chinese embassy here by Tibetan protestors and China said it would make representations to India over the incident.

Nine people were arrested after the demo, in which petrol bombs were thrown and a police guard and embassy gatekeeper injured, and face unspecified criminal charges.

(Foreign Ministry spokesman Wu Jianmin said in Beijing Thursday that China will make representations to India over the incident.

(He condemned what he said were "violent attacks some rioters inflicted on the Chinese Embassy", adding "the Chinese government hopes that the Indian government will take effective measures to stop political activities against China."

(Wu said: "The Dalai Lama and his followers' carrying out political activities trying to separate Tibet from China runs counter to the interests of Chinese people of all nationalities, including the Tibetan people. What they did is entirely futile.")

Migyur Dorji, chief of the Dalai Lama's bureau, told AFP that while he appreciated the protestors' "courage and determination" for the Tibetan cause "I cannot approve of their act."

Dorji said the Dalai Lama, who fled to India in 1959 after a failed anti-Chinese uprising in his homeland, had repeatedly emphasised that protests should be peaceful.

He said he was not sure if the Dalai Lama's bureau would offer legal help to the detained protestors.

There was a fresh anti-Chinese demonstration in New Delhi Thursday by about 300 Tibetan women, many of them with babies. They spat on the Chinese flag, shouted slogans such as "Tibet is China's Kuwait" and "Li Peng (China's premier) die, die."

At least three women fainted during scuffles with police. The protest was organised by the Regional Tibetan Women's Association.

India is home to some 100,000 Tibetan exiles, most of whom fled Tibet with the Dalai Lama, who heads a government-in-exile in the Indian hill town of Dharamsala. The government in exile is not recognised by any country.

Iran

Newspapers Assess U.S. Stand on Korean Freighter

LD1203114692 Tehran IRNA in English 0842 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA—Two morning dailies Thursday commented on the mysterious case of the Korean "Dae Hung Ho" freighter and the U.S. psychological war over the issue in the past two weeks.

"It is no secret that North Korea sells weapons to Iran and Syria. Nor is it a secret that the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, with America and Russia topping the list, all do a brisk annual business in arms. By comparisor the Koreans are hardly a blip on the screen," wrote "KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL".

The daily quoted Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams as saying that the freighter slipped the highly vaunted U.S. military surveillance not because of the heavy maritime traffic in the region.

"I can't tell you why. I can't say precisely why we didn't see it all the time," the daily quoted him as saying.

However, the ship had not broken any international rules and on the contrary an American attempt to board it would have been a breach of maritime law.

"Attempting to board the Dae Hung Ho would have been risky and an illegal business. Clearly a few dead American sailors would smell bad for the White House in the run-up to elections," it concluded.

Commenting on the same subject, "SALAM" described the latest American ballyhoo as psychological warfare against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As long as Iran was the country where the oppressed nations could invest their hopes and as long as Iran remained the upholder of the anti-imperialist campaign, the U.S. will remain hostile.

After Iran adopted an impartial stand towards the Persian Gulf crisis and following the release of all American hostages in Beirut, attempts were made to present a different profile of Iran to the Western public opinion.

SALAM quoted the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni as saying that all the officials of the Islamic Republic as well as Iranians should know that neither the West nor the East would remain silent as long as Iran maintained its Islamic identity.

Pakistan To Handle Iranian Interests in U.S.

LD1103170492 Tehran IRNA in English 1557 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Islamabad, March 11, IRNA—Pakistan has accepted to take care of the Islamic Republic of Iran's interests in Washington, a spokesman for the Pakistani Foreign Ministry told reporters here today.

Following the severance of diplomatic ties between Tehran and Washington after the victory of the Islamic revolution (1979), Algeria had taken care of Iranian interests in the United States.

The spokesman said Pakistan and Algeria have friendly relations, and Islamabad's taking care of Iranian interests in Washington will not have any negative impact on the "friendly ties with Algiers."

The Pakistani statement also expressed country's concern over the tragic situation of Muslims in Myanmar, and asked Rangoon to respect the basic rights of the Muslims in that country.

Velayati Phones Azerbaijani, Armenian Leaders

LD1203112792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] In continuation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts to stem the clashes in the Karabakh region, and after a telephone conversation with the prime minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who requested measures to be adopted to prevent the spread of fighting in Karabakh, Foreign Minister Velayati telephoned the president of Armenia this morning and urged him to try to stop further bloodshed.

Armenian President Ter-Petrosyan, in reply, expressed appreciation for the efforts being made by the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said he will do his best in this regard and will soon be dispatching a special delegation to Tehran to continue negotiations.

In his telephone conversation with Mr. Velayati, Azerbaijani Prime Minister Gasan Gasanov said: The clashes in Karabakh have spread to the city of Agdam.

Further on Azerbaijani Delegation's Visit

LD1103153192 Tehran IRNA in English 1415 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—An Azerbaijani delegation, now in Tehran to inform Iranian officials of the Baku government's viewpoints on the Karabakh issue, met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday.

Velayati told reporters after the meeting that the visit to Tehran of the Azerbaijani delegation was in line with Iran's mediation efforts to end clashes between newly independent republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia over Karabakh enclave.

To this end, he disclosed, a delegation from Armenia would travel to Tehran soon.

Only 90 percent of the clashes in Karabakh region are under control of Azerbaijan and Armenia, Velayati said, but armed locals can disrupt the process of ceasefire in defiance of what both countries wish.

The foreign minister said Azerbaijan was opposed to the despatch of U.N. peacekeeping force to the region but has agreed in principle to a proposal by the Islamic Republic that an observer group of various nationalities, including Iran be formed for the purpose.

Velayati expressed hope that Iran would obtain the approval of Armenia for the deployment of an Iranian observer group in Karabakh during the forthcoming visit to Tehran of an Armenian delegation.

After the deployment of an observer force in the region, Velayati said, the Islamic Republic would try to find an honorable solution to the conflict by paving the way for face-to-face negotiations between the belligerent sides.

Vafa Kulizade head of the Azerbaijani delegation, termed Iran as a "great and brotherly" country and added that its mediation efforts would serve to further expand Tehran-Baku relations.

He reiterated Azerbaijan's desire for an immediate end to the Karabakh clashes in the context of international law.

However, the Azerbaijani official confirmed that certain foreign countries were meddling in the Azerbaijani-Armenian dispute but declined to name them.

The Azerbaijani delegation comprising some advisors to the government, arrived in Tehran Tuesday.

Tajik Visitor Urges Expansion of Ties

LD1103234392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] The leader of Tajikistan's Democratic Party has called for the expansion of ties between his country and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During a news conference, Shodmon Yusupov referred to the Islamic Republic as a brother country of Tajikistan and called on his country's government to expand relations with the Islamic Republic as soon as possible. He told reporters: The establishment of ties with the Islamic Republic is a return to our identity, culture, and historical destiny.

Shodmon Yusupov accused America of trying to separate Iran from Tajikistan. He said: Neither the United States nor any other country has the right to deprive us of the great advantage of relations with the Islamic Republic merely by donating foodstuffs.

Referring to James Baker's recent visit to Tajikistan, he said: The U.S. secretary of state told the Tajik leaders that Tajikistan will receive assistance from Washington only if it refuses to establish relations with the Islamic Republic.

Transportation Agreement Signed With Russia

LD0603221392 Tehran IRNA in English 1553 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, March 6, IRNA—Transport officials of Iran and Russia signed a letter of understanding on transport cooperation and transit of cargo and passengers, here Thursday night.

Iran's deputy minister of roads and transport Sa'id Nejad held talks with his Russian counterpart and agreed in principle on mutual cooperation.

According to the agreement, the negotiations over the issue at the experts level will be held in Tehran next June to work out the draft agreement to be inked by the two countries' transport ministers.

Sa'id Nejad who is here accompanying Minister of Economy and Financial Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh left for Kiev, capital of Ukraine Friday for similar negotiations with his Ukrainian counterpart. He will then proceed to Kyrgyzstan and Armenia in continuation of his mission.

Najibollah's Bid for U.S. Assistance Criticized

LD1103214292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1103 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] While the UN special envoy for Afghanistan's affairs is endeavoring to organize a broadbased meeting of Afghan representatives in Geneva, Afghan President Najibollah, in an interview with THE NEW YORK TIMES, asked the United States to help him maintain power so that he can act as a defensive wall against the spread of Islamic fundamentalism in Central Asia.

Najibollah believes that if his government is helped he can stand as a shield against fundamentalism in Central Asia. It seems that Najibollah, in a last bid to retain power, wants to obtain U.S. financial support so as to cope with problems that emerged after financial aid from the former Soviet Union was cut. This is while Najibollah has committed himself to supporting the UN plan for a large gathering with the participation of Afghans—including fundamentalist guerrillas—to find joint solutions for ending the civil war in that country.

Political analysts believe that Najibollah's request for assistance from the United States shows the extent to which his government feels helpless in the face of resistance by the Muslim people of Afghanistan. The Afghan people—despite the policies of foreign governments—are calling for the downfall of Najibollah's regime and the establishment of an independent and Islamic government.

In the opinion of these same political analysts, in view of past U.S. policy toward Najibollah's regime, Washington is not likely to decide to assist Najibollah. Not only would help of any sort aimed at prolonging the life of the present regime in Afghanistan undermine the UN plan for a large meeting of all representatives of the people of Afghanistan, it would also be inconsistent with Washington's past policies.

In any case, it appears that any support that America may give to unpopular regimes in Islamic countries on the pretext of concern over fundamentalists cannot be compatible with the principles of democracy and human rights. This shows that existing contradictions in America's foreign policy gives unpopular regimes in the region the chance easily to ignore the true demands of their Muslim peoples.

U.S. assistance to Afghanistan or any other country on the pretext of defense against fundamentalism is tantamount to a real negation of the demands of the peoples of the region to choose the kind of government they themselves wish to see in power.

Cypriot Foreign Minister Comments on Visit, Departs

LD1103215692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Mr. Yeoryios Iakovou, the Cypriot foreign minister, left Tehran this morning after a two-day visit. Foreign Minister Velayati saw him off. In an interview with our correspondent, Mr. Iakovou expressed pleasure at his trip to Tehran and described his talks with the Iranian president and foreign minister as positive and fruitful.

Stressing the importance of expanding ties between Iran and Cyprus, he said: We welcome the expansion of cooperation in the economic, industrial, commercial, transportation, and other fields. He stated: In meetings with Iranian officials we discussed international issues, including developments in the Balkan peninsula, Middle East, and former Soviet Central Asian republics.

According to our correspondent's report, Mr. Velayati referred to the expanding ties between the two countries, and declared: We could make use of the good commercial, communications, and transportation facilities of Cyprus. He described Cyprus as an active country in the Nonaligned Movement. He said: That country is willing to expand its ties with Central Asian republics and would like the necessary facilities to be provided by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Our foreign minister described the next meeting of the nonaligned foreign ministers, which is to be held in Ordibehesht [month beginning 21 April], as a good opportunity for proposing the membership of the newly independent republics in the movement and resolving the existing disputes among them.

Majles Law Bans Media Electioneering

LD1103164692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Excerpt] In its open session this morning, the Majles debated and approved a triple priority bill on amendment to the Majles Electoral Law. The bill was debated with the members of the Council of Guardians present at the session. The Majles had earlier approved the motion on the bill's triple priority.

According to bill, the legal ban on publicity in favor of candidates by the radio and television as well as the press does not extend to the live coverage of Majles open sessions and their coverage in the press. The law goes into effect from the date of enactment. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Sharif Dismisses Communications Minister

BK1103170092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1655 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Islamabad, March 11 (AFP)—Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif dismissed Wednesday his communications minister Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi, in apparent reaction to his father, former caretaker premier Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi's, alliance with the opposition. The state-run television said Murtaza Jatoi had been relieved of his office with immediate effect. The report gave no reason for the action.

The sacking followed changes in southern Sindh province where the senior Jatoi formed an alliance of his National Peoples Party (NPP) with opposition leader Benazir Bhutto's Peoples Democratic Alliance (PDA).

Mustafa Jatoi's NPP is a component of the ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) headed by Sharif but it joined hands with the PDA following the death of Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali six days ago.

As caretaker premier, Mustafa Jatoi had supervised the October 1990 elections in the wake of dismissal of Bhutto by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on charges of mismanagement and corruption.

The PDA-NPP alliance in Sindh supported the election of Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah as new chief minister of the province on Friday in what the opposition described a move aimed at preventing dissolution of the assembly by the centre.

Municipal elections are due in Sindh in the coming months and sources said the PDA-NPP combine could pose serious challenge to the provincial ruling coalition in the polls.

It was not clear whether Sharif would move to oust the NPP from the IJI which is already affected by splits because of persistent criticism of government policies by an Islamic fundamentalist member party.

The Jamaat-e Eslami leadership has been at odds with Sharif over most issues, including Afghanistan, Kashmir, and the Islamization process in the country.

Bush Remarks on Ties, Nuclear Issue Noted

BK1203090292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] President Bush has said that the United States wants to resolve the nuclear issue with Pakistan so as to resume their full relationship. While accepting the credentials of Pakistan's ambassador to the United States, Syeda Abida Hussain, in Washington, he said the United States and Pakistan are old and close friends with a long history of cooperation and mutually beneficial relation. Mr. Bush said the United States and Pakistan shared goals of stability in South Asia. He called for continuing to work together to minimize the prospects of conflicts by addressing on a regional basis those issues such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that undercut continued peace. In this context, President Bush backed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's policy of pursuing better relations with India. The U.S. President said it is of paramount importance to work for a secure and stable South Asia free of nuclear arms. Presenting the letter of credence, Syeda Abida Hussain said Pakistan considers its long and historic friendship with the United States as a cornerstone of its foreign policy.

Spokesman on Indian Nonproliferation Stand

BK1103150692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1415 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Pakistan has again said that it will continue to work for ensuring nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia on the basis of an equitable and nondiscriminatory nuclear regime. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today. He was asked to comment on the Indian foreign secretary's statement in Washington that India would not sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and would not attend the five-nation conference on nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia. He said full text of the Indian secretary's press talk is awaited.

About Afghanistan, the spokesman said there has not been any change in Pakistan's official position which is committed to a peaceful settlement of the Afghan problem. He said there is no role for Najibollah in the proposed Afghan assembly and in the interim government. The UN secretary general's proposal includes the transfer of total executive power from the present regime to the interim government as soon as it is established. He said the Afghan assembly is expected to be convened in the second half of next month.

The spokesman said Pakistan will look after Iranian interests in Washington in response to a request made by the Government of Iran in this respect. The spokesman said previously the Iranian interests were looked after by Algeria.

The spokesman said Pakistan has expressed its concern to the Burmese Government over the plight of the Muslim minority in Burma.

Afghan Resistance Leader Rejects UN Plan

BK1203100692 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 12 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] Peshawar—The leader of Ittehad-e-Eslami Afghanistan, Prof. Abdul Rab Rasool Sayyaf, has vowed not to allow the anti- Mojahedin peace plan of the United Nations as long as he was alive.

According to ANS [Al-Bunyan News Service of Peshawar-based Mojahedin] addresssing over 600 party-members of Ittehad-e-Eslami on Wednesday morning, Sayyaf warned against the negative consequences of the United Nations peace plan.

In his two hours long speech to the selected gathering, Sayyaf said.

"All those persons whose list has been prepared for future interim government in Afghanistan by Benon Sevan, were people of dubious character and were worse than the communists".

Sayyaf warned his top commanders, present on the occasion, that if these anti-Islam and anti-Mojahedin pro-Western elements were allowed to replace the Watan Party in Kabul their first task would be the annihilation of the Mojahedin commanders and their leaders.

"At this history-making juncture of Afghan Jehad, I urge all the true suporters of the Afghan Muslim nation not to leave the Mojahedin in halfway".

"Our friends and supporters have an Islamic obligation to prefer the pleasure of God Almighty to that of George Bush's and Sevan's".

"If our friends really feel that they can't withstand international pressure any longer at least they should do their best not to stand in the way of the fundamental goals of our Islamic Jehad", said Sayyaf.

"I admit the bitter truth before this gathering that our continued disunity was an unforgivable sin, which is one of the main causes of the present problems being faced by the Mojahedin", said Sayyaf.

"By now the Afghan Muslim nation must have realised as to who really wanted Islam and who want his own-self", he told the gethering.

Mr Sayyaf had specially convened the emergency meeting of his partymen to debate with them the latest military and political situations of the Afghan Jehad".

"On my part, I make it quite clear once again that we are honestly prepared for the creation of a strong and practical unity among all the Islamic-minded parties of the Mojahedin. Our only condition is, no compromise on the fundamental aims of our Islamic Jehad for the sake of temporary political gains added Sayyaf.

"I am not a candidate for leadership if our above condition is met by our brothers", he said.

"I am sad to say that till today we have not succeeded in our efforts to bring about a real unity among the leaders of the Mojahedin", Mr Sayyaf conceded.

'Revolutionary Vision' Guides Ties With Republics

BK0603033492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Pakistan will be guided by revolutionary vision while promoting political, economic, trade, and cultural ties with the newly independent states of Central Asia. This was stated at a two-day seminar organized by the Foreign Office in Islamabad. Addressing the concluding session of the seminar, Foreign Affairs Secretary General Akram Zaki assured the delegates that the seminar's recommendations will be given due consideration while formulating Pakistan's policy on the Central Asian states. The seminar, which was attended by prominent scholars from all over the country, was organized to assess prospects for promoting Pakistan's ties with the newly independent states in the wake of the recent changes in Central Asia.

Sri Lanka

Indian Proposal To Arrest Prabhakaran Criticized

BK1103085992 Columbo DAILY NEWS in English 2 Mar 92 p 6

[Editorial: "A useful exchange"]

[Text] A Joint Indo-Lankan commando operation to seize Prabhakaran, suggested by an Indian politician who was once a very close buddy of the Tigers, is obviously an impractical idea. The fact is that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leader is in a part of the country—most probably in the Jaffna Peninsula—that is not under the control of the Government of Sri Lanka.

Until that picture changes, no commando or any other kind of operation will lead to the capture of Velupillai Prabhakaran. Even at a time when the northern and eastern provinces were saturated with as many as 80,000 Indian troops at the height of the IPKF [Indian Peace-keeping Force] presence here, Prabhakaran could not be arrested.

Just as much as the Indians failed to get him, our own security forces also could not arrest him at a time the situation was nowhere near what it is today. Like Rohana Wijeweera [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna leader] until his dramatic arrest, Prabhakaran too has proved as elusive as the Scarlet Pimpernel. But as in Wijeweera's case, the tide can turn.

Many Lankans would remember the period when there was a pervasive belief here that the IPKF was not interested in arresting Prabhakaran. At one news conference, then Indian High Commissioner J.N. Dixit was asked: "Why don't you arrest Prabhakaran?" The seasoned diplomat shot back: "Why don't you arrest Wijeweera?" Fortunately for this country, Wijeweera was arrested.

Apart from impracticalities like joint commando operations, which High Commissioner Neville Kanakaratne has politely brushed aside, his informal chat with Indian reporters in Madras recently has elicited some useful insights into Indo-Lankan relations at present. Some of these were reflected in a despatch from our Madras correspondent which we published in our late city edition on Saturday.

The most important of these is Colombo's desire to continue seeking a negotiated end to the civil war even as Sri Lanka cooperates with India to bring Prabhakaran and Pottu Omman to justice in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination matter. The high commissioner has made clear that Colombo was no longer insisting on talking to Prabhakaran and negotiations could be carried out with other LTTE leaders.

Mr. Kanakaratne has gone to the extent of telling the Madras press that "if Prabhakaran was in our custody, we would hand him over to you. There'll be no problem. But, alas, Prabhakaran happens to be the most elusive gentleman!".

The Government of India is well aware of the extent of cooperation offered by the various agencies here to the Rajiv Gandhi assasination investigation. This assistance has been publicly acknowledged in India. The proclamation of Prabhakaran and Pottu Omman in the Rajiv Gandhi case by the Madras High Court was widely publicised by the newspapers and other media here not only as paid notices. They publicised the proclamation in the news columns too and gave this news air and television time.

In fact, the indictments just filed by the Attorney-General here in the Ranjan Wijeratne assassination case and the JOC [Joint Operations Command] bombing which cost the lives of several soldiers and caused extensive property damage, may well have implications running into the Gandhi case.

Mr. Kanakaratne has identified some of the problem areas, like permanent merger of the northern and eastern provinces, that stand in the way of an acceptable solution of the national question. But he has made the valid point that some of the proposals that have already been made, like Mr. Thondaman's can be a starting point for negotiations. Positions can also change, as the high commissioner pointed out. People may well prefer a "permanent merger to permanent massacre", to borrow his words.

We are glad that the position of Muslims in the eastern province has been brought up during Mr. Kanakaratne's conversation with the Madras press. Hopefully, what he said will be reflected not only in the English language newspapers in India but also in the Tamil press. It must not be forgotten that the Sinhalese too are a strong numerical presence in the eastern province.

The possibility of the conflict being ended this year has been cautiously postulated by our leaders. Hopefully, this would come to pass. It is the duty of all Lankans, whatever their race or politics, to do all they can to assist the achieving of this objective.